

Willamette Farmer.

SALEM, FRIDAY, NOV. 3, 1876.

PROF. HUXLEY'S LECTURES.

During Professor Huxley's recent brief sojourn in America, he delivered three lectures (the only scientific discourses given by him in this country) on "The Theory of Evolution."

There was a shade of disappointment visible on the faces of not a few of Prof. Huxley's hearers as they left the hall at the close of his first lecture. It had not been all what they had come to hear. The absurd reports which certain of the daily newspapers had circulated with regard to Prof. Huxley's attitude toward religion had led many to anticipate something startling.

To those, however, who understood the situation of affairs, and were prepared to appreciate the beauty and success of the method which Prof. Huxley chose for clearing the way for an unobstructed view of the evidence bearing on the problems of evolution, to be set forth in succeeding lectures, the first evening's discourse was as satisfactory as an introductory lecture could well be.

In the first place, it was not his business to say what the Hebrew text contained, or what it did not, and in the second place, were he to say that this was the Biblical hypothesis, he would be met by the authority of many eminent divines, to say nothing of men of Science, who in recent times have denied that this doctrine is to be found in Genesis at all.

The second lecture was devoted to a consideration of two lines of geological evidence, the first including such facts as are neutral, which neither help evolution nor are inconsistent with it; and the second, those facts which give strong probability to the theory but do not prove it.

Historically important among neutral facts are those which led Cuvier to pronounce against the theory of evolution as propounded by Lamarck. The French expedition to Egypt had brought from that country the mummified remains of many animals, mam-

mals, birds, and reptiles. Cuvier argued that, if evolution were true, the Egyptian remains, which were certainly three or four thousand years old, ought to be measurably unlike the birds, crocodiles, and so on, now inhabiting the valley of the Nile. He found on close examination that three or four thousand years had brought no important change to the animal forms of that region, and accepted the evidence as conclusive against the doctrine of Lamarck.

Of like nature are the numerous facts showing the apparently sudden origin of forms, like the perianth lizards, with no trace of antecedent forms. Such facts would be fatal to the evolutionary theory, if the geological record as it stands were complete. But the exceeding incompleteness of the record is a necessary condition from the manner of its formation; and besides, there is abundant evidence of enormous gaps.

Much more interesting, on the whole, was the evidence in favor of evolution derived from transitional forms, or, more correctly, forms standing between groups now distinct, and partaking of the characteristics of each. For the most part, the evidence of this sort was drawn from recent discoveries tending to fill up one of the largest gaps in existing animate nature, that between reptiles and birds, and hinting how the evolution of birds from reptiles may have taken place.

The third and final lecture was begun by pointing out an element of weakness in the evidence presented in the preceding lecture. It was true the mesozoic rocks furnished fossil forms so completely bridging over the gaps between reptiles and birds that it would be very hard to say where the reptile ends and the bird begins. It was true that evidence of that sort is far weightier than that upon which men undertake to say they believe many important propositions.

Having traced at great length the evolution of the horse from the four-toed horse-like creature of the eocene period, and showed that the history of the horse, as recorded in tertiary strata, is precisely that which could have been predicted from a knowledge of the principles of evolution, the lecturer said: "If that is not scientific proof, then

there are no inductive conclusions which can be said to be scientific. And the doctrine of evolution at the present time rests upon as secure a foundation as the Copernican theory of the motions of the heavenly bodies."

In closing, the speaker took the precaution to observe that his purpose had not been to enable those who had not made a study of these subjects to leave the room in a condition qualified to decide upon the validity of the hypothesis of the hypothesis of evolution, but to put before them the principles by which all such hypotheses must be judged, and to make apparent the nature of the evidence and the sort of cogency which is to be expected and may be obtained from it; and he should consider that he had done his hearers the greatest service it was in his power to do, if he had convinced them that the question under discussion was not one to be dealt with by rhetorical flourishes or by loose and superficial talk, but one that requires the keenest attention of the trained intellect and the patience of the most accurate observer.

A full report of the three Lectures of Prof. Huxley is contained in the Supplement to the Scientific American, Vol. 2, No. 41. Price ten cents. Address Munn & Co., Publishers, 37 Park Row, New York.

English railways are well built, without sharp curves as in this country, and still collisions happen upon them more frequently than in America. Trains seeing each other at a long distance in England still often collide, because the brake system is not so perfect as in the United States, where a train was recently prevented by our brakes from running into a river through an open bridge.

THE AGE OF MAN.

THE AGE OF MAN.—Lyell having, in a positive way some forty years ago, put back the birth of man to an indefinite period, the anthropologists are endeavoring to throw further light on the antiquity of man on earth. The researches made in Kent's cavern seem to show that at that distant period, when geographically France and England were joined, the primeval man existed. Efforts have recently been made to fix man's recognized presence on this earth as far back as 800,000 years ago.

MORE CANNERIES AT ASTORIA.—Next season there will be ten canneries at Astoria. In addition to the five that were in operation here this season, the following are to be added to next season's business: The Fishermen's Packing Association; Wadhams and Hawthorn; the Anglo-American Packing Co.; Corbett and Maceley et al; Robert Watson of the Manhattan Cannery, is to build another cannery here; and Messrs. Bradley, Davis & Co., also a cannery. These are severally to be located in upper Astoria.—Astorian.

THUNDER AND HAIL.—On last Wednesday, about noon, as a variety to the rain storm which had continued from the previous twenty-four hours, preceded by thunder for an hour or two, there came a shower of hail which drifted in places to six or eight inches deep of sizes from a musket ball to buck-shot, the larger predominating. The hail fell only about five or six minutes, but in quantity and size heretofore unknown to the experience of the oldest inhabitant.—Astorian.

During the past summer farmers in the vicinity of Boone's Ferry have had their stock injured by some person shooting them with fine shot. Last week complaint was made and a Mr. A. B. Stroup was arrested, charged with malicious injury to animals. The case came up before Justice Athey last Saturday, and the defendant waived examination and was bound over to appear before the next grand jury in the sum of \$500.—Enterprise.

To Ladies.

MRS. DR. CRAIG is now prepared to receive patients at her office, in Salem. During the past year she has had extensive practice at Dr. Adams' popular Medical Institute at Portland, in treating ladies, and feels confident of affording relief in most cases of a chronic character. Special attention paid to female weakness and nervous prostration. In connection with her treatment, she uses the celebrated Medicated Electric Vapor Baths, which aid vastly in effecting cures. Office and residence, s. e. corner of Center and Summer streets, Salem.

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For further particulars apply to J. McCRAKEN & CO., PORTLAND, OR.

REST. My feet are wearied and my hands are tired— My soul oppressed— And with desire have I long desired Rest—only rest. 'Tis hard to toil—when toil is almost vain— In barren ways; 'Tis hard to sow and never garner grain In harvest days. The burden of my day is hard to bear— But God knows best; And I have prayed, but vain has been my prayer. For rest—sweet rest. 'Tis hard to plant in spring and never reap The autumn yield; 'Tis hard to till—and when 'tis tilled to weep O'er fruitless field. And so I cry a weak and human cry, I sigh oppressed; And so I heart a weak and human sigh For rest—for rest. My way has wound across the desert years, And o'erest infest My path; and through the flowing of hot tears. I pine for rest. 'Twas always so; when still a child, I laid On mother's breast My wearied little head; e'en then I prayed, As now, for rest. And I am restless still. 'Twill soon be o'er; For, down the West Life's sun is setting, and I see the shore Where I shall rest.

The ancient kingdom of Poland is now for all purposes an integral part of the Russian Empire, the last remaining vestige of its semi-autonomous character having been swept away through the recent abolition of Secretary of State for Poland.

CENTAUR LINIMENTS.

[Letter from a Postmaster.]

"ASTORIA, ILL., Dec. 1, 1874. Messrs. J. B. Rose & Co.: My wife has, for a long time, been a terrible sufferer from Rheumatism. She has tried many physicians and many remedies. The only thing which has given her relief is Centaur Liniment. I am prepared to say this has cured her. I am doing what I can to extend its sale. W. H. RING."

This is a sample of many thousand testimonials received, of wonderful cures effected by the Centaur Liniment. The ingredients of this article are published around each bottle. It contains Witch Hazel, Mentha, Arica, Rock Oil, Carbolic, and Ingredients hitherto little known. It is an indispensable fact that the Centaur Liniment is performing more cures of Swellings, Stiff Joints, Eruptions, Rheumatism, Neuralgia, Sciatica, Caked Breasts, Lock-jaw, &c., than all other Liniments, Embrocations, Extracts, Salves, Ointments, and Plasters, now in use.

For Toothache, Earache, Weak Back, Itch, and Cutaneous Eruptions, it is admirable. It cures burns and scalds without a scar. Extracts poison from bites and stings, and heals frost bites and chilblains, in a short time. No family can afford to be without the Centaur Liniment, white wrapper. The Centaur Liniment, Yellow Wrapper, is adapted to the tough skin, muscles, and flesh of the animal creation. Its effects upon severe cases of Spavin, Sweeney, Wind Gall, Big Head, and Poll Evil, are little less than marvellous.

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Pitcher's Castoria,

Mothers may have rest and their babies may have health, if they will use Castoria for Wind Colic, Worms, Feverishness, Sore Mouth, Croup, or Stomach complaints. It is entirely a vegetable preparation and contains neither mineral, morphia, nor alcohol. It is as pleasant to take as honey, and neither gags nor gripes. Dr. E. Dimock, of Dupont, O., says: "I am using Castoria in my practice with the most signal benefits and happy results." This is what every one says. Most nurses in New York city use the Castoria. It is prepared by Messrs. J. B. Rose & Co., 46 Dey St., New York, successors to Samuel Pitcher, M. D.

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HAVING PURCHASED THE INTEREST OF Mr. Watkins in the old established house in the above line, the attention of the community is called to the stock of

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F. O. SULLIVAN, ATTORNEY AT LAW, OPERA HOUSE, SALEM. S. E. corner, at head of stairs. fe19

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