

singularly deficient in organic remains; and by stating that he is of opinion that their absence may be accounted for by the conglomerate indicating a period of turbulence and agitation. He then alludes to the recent discovery of bones in this deposit on Durdham Down, and to Dr. Kiley and Mr. Stuchbury's having determined that they belong to Saurians. These bones, he says, are angular as well as the associated fragments of mountain limestone, and are so intimately incorporated with the latter as to constitute a bone breccia. He says he has ascertained that the remains belong to at least three animals, varying in their proportions from the *Dracæna* of Lacépède to the lesser varieties of *Monitors* and *Safeguards*. He afterwards describes a fragment of a small jaw found by himself, which exhibits six distinct alveoli separated by bony partitions. One of the alveoli contains a young tooth, which had cut its way to the summit of the jaw. It is hollow from the base to the apex, and consists of a very thin plate of ivory coated by a thinner sheathing of enamel. The form is triangular, the point keen, the body swells ap, and the margin on each side is regularly crenated from the apex downwards. From these characters the author conceives that the animal to which the jaw belonged, may have formed a link between the crocodiles and the lizards proper.

#### ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

August 26.—An extensive series was exhibited of skins of *Mammalia*, collected in Nepal by B. H. Hodgson, Esq., Corr. Memb. Z. S., and presented by that gentleman to the Society. It included twenty-two species, several of which were first made known to science by the exertions of Mr. Hodgson, while others still remain to be described by him.

A paper "On the *Mammalia* of Nepal," written by Mr. Hodgson, has been read before the Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and has been published in the 'Journal' of that Society; but Mr. Hodgson has availed himself of the opportunities which have occurred to him since it was written, to make various additions and corrections in the copy transmitted by him to the Society, portions of which have been read at several previous meetings.

Mr. Hodgson's paper commences by an account of the physical characters of Nepal, which are so varied, according to the elevation of the several districts, as to render it necessary, when treating on its natural productions, to divide it into three regions. The lower region consists of the Tarâi or marshes, the Bhavar or forest, and the lower hills, and has the climate of the plains of Hindoostan, with some increase of heat and great excess of moisture. The central region includes a clusterous succession of mountains, varying in elevation from 3000 to 10,000 feet, and having a temperature of from 10° to 20° lower than that of the plains. The juxta-Himalayan region, or Kachâr, consists of high mountains, the summits of which are buried for half the year in snow: the climate has nothing tropical about it, except the succession of the seasons.

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Mr. Hodgson then enumerates the *Mammalia* which have been observed in Nepal, adopting in their arrangement the system of Cuvier, and noticing as regards each the region in which it occurs. He adds occasional remarks as to their habits; and notices many which appear to him to be undescribed. An abstract of this portion of his communication is given in the "Proceedings;" from which the following are extracts.

*Felis Moormensis*, Hodgs., belong to the central region; it does also an undescribed and beautifully marked species.

*Felis viverrinus*, Benn., is confined to the Tarâi.

*Lutra*, Linn. Of this genus Mr. Hodgson conceives that no less than seven species are found in Nepal, five of which differ from the two which inhabit the plains of Hindoostan. Four of these he regards as new, differing materially in length, in bulk and proportions, and in colour; one of them is yellowish white all over; the rest are brown, more or less dark, some having the chin and throat or under surface paled nearly to white or yellow.

*Canis familiaris*, Linn. The *Pariah* is the only *Dog* of the lower and central regions. The *Thibetan Mastiff* is limited to the Kachâr, into which it was introduced from its native country, but in which it degenerates rapidly; there are several varieties of it.

*Canis primæus*, Hodgs.

*Elephas Indicus*, Cuv.,

*Rhinoceros unicornis*, Cuv., are both abundant in the forest and hills of the lower region, whence in the rainy season they issue into the cultivated parts of the Tarâi to feed upon the rice crops.

Mr. Hodgson suggests that there are two varieties, or perhaps rather species, of the *Indian Elephant*, the Ceylonese and that of the Saal forest. The Ceylonese has a smaller lighter head, which is carried more elevated; it has also higher fore-quarters. The *Elephant* of the Saal forest has sometimes five nails on its hinder feet.

The *Rhinoceros* goes with young from seventeen to eighteen months, and produces one at a birth. At birth it measures 3 feet 4 inches in length, and 2 feet in height. An individual born at Katmandoo eight years since measures now 9 feet 3 inches in length; 4 feet 10 inches in height at the shoulders; the utmost girth of his body is 10 feet 5 inches; the length of the head, 2 feet 4 inches; of the horn, 5 inches; he is evidently far from being adult. It is believed that the animal lives for one hundred years; one, taken mature, was kept at Katmandoo for thirty-five years without exhibiting any symptoms of approaching decline. The young continues to suck for nearly two years. It has when born and for a month afterwards a pink suffusion over the dark colour proper to the mature hide. Mr. Hodgson states that the wool of the *Huiah* or Bhotean domesticated *Sheep* is superb; and suggests that attempts should be made to naturalize the race in England. To such attempts he is willing to render every assistance in his power. It is suited only for the northern region of Nepal, suffering much from the heat of the central district.

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