

which is not found in the *Chimpanzee*, and has been asserted to exist in man alone. Other peculiarities are met with, in the absence of a *crista galli* on the ethmoid bone, and in the non-existence of either mastoid or styloid processes: there is a process from the articular surface of the temporal bone, which is necessary to prevent dislocation backwards of the lower jaw, the auditory process not being adapted to prevent such an accident. The intermaxillary bones are distinct. There are large *foramina* behind the deciduous teeth, which lead to cavities containing the permanent ones; the crowns of the latter are as large as those of the *Pongo*. The *os nasi* is single and triangular; it has a strong spine at the back part. There are three infra-orbital *foramina*; and large *foramina* in the malar bone. The anterior condyloid *foramina* are two on each side.

The true *vertebræ* are 23: 7 cervical, with long simple spines; 12 dorsal; and 4 lumbar. There are 8 false *vertebræ*, viz. 5 sacral, and 3 coccygeal. The ribs are 12; 7 true, and 5 false. The *sternum* is composed, below the first portion, of a double series of bones alternating with each other: the same structure obtains in the *Pongo*.

The spine of the *scapula* is strongly incurvated upwards. The bones of the arm and hand are much elongated. The thumb is short; the proximal *phalanges* of the fingers bent.

The *ilia* are narrow, flattened, and elongated. The *femur* is short and straight; it has no *ligamentum teres*, a deficiency which occurs also in the *Elephant*, the *Sloths*, in *Seals*, the *Walrus*, *Ornithorhynchus*, &c., and by which a greater extent of motion is allowed to the thigh. The *tibia* and *fibula* are shorter than the *femur*: these, like the bones of the fore-arm, have a greater interosseous space than is found in man. The *patella* is very small. The *os calcis* projects far behind. The bones of the *metatarsus* and the *phalanges* are elongated, the first series of the latter being bent. The hinder thumb is very short: in the individual examined it had a metatarsal bone, and two *phalanges*. A nail existed on the thumb of each hinder hand.

Dec. 14.—G. B. Greenough, Esq. in the Chair. A letter was read from Dr. Andrew Smith, addressed to N. A. Vigors, Esq. The following are extracts:

“Cape Town, 8th Sept. 1830.—I am sure you will be pleased to learn that I have discovered another species of *Macroscelides*, as well as a new one of *Erinaceus*; and three species of the genus *Otis*, together with one of *Brachypteryx*. The descriptions of these I hope to be able to forward to you in the course of three weeks or a month. The first is designated in our Museum, *Macroscelides rufestris*; the second, *Erinaceus Capensis*; the third, fourth, and fifth, *Otis Vigorsii*, *Ot. ferox*, and *Ot. Afræoides*; the sixth, *Brachypteryx Horsfieldii*. The first was found by myself on the mountains near to the mouth of the Orange river, and the circumstance of its always residing among rocks, together with the difference in its coloring, readily pointed it out as being of a distinct species. As to the colour, the most marked distinction consists in the Cape species having a large tawny rufous or chestnut blotch

on the nape and back of the neck. The second, *Erinaceus Capensis*, exhibits considerable affinity to the European species, yet betrays such marked peculiarities as to warrant its being considered as really different from it. The third, *Otis Vigorsii*, inhabits the most dry and barren situations in the south of Africa, and is known among the colonists by the name of *Karor Koran*. The prevailing colour above is a light tawny or reddish yellow, and below tawny gray, passing into dirty white on the belly. The back is variegated by numerous violet blotches or reflections, as well as by whitish spots, and the under parts by transverse narrow zigzag black lines. The fourth is above principally tawny yellow, and below dull blueish gray: it is found in the country toward Latakoo. The fifth is met with on the flats near the Orange river, and is called the *Bushman Koran*. With the exception of a great portion of the quill feathers being white, it resembles much the common *Koran* of the colony, the *Otis Afra*. The sixth is met with in high rocky situations, and agrees in most respects with the generic character of *Brachypteryx*, as described by Dr. Horsfield."

With the above letter Dr. Smith transmitted to the Society a present of sixteen specimens of fishes, obtained in the neighbourhood of the Cape of Good Hope, "the details relative to which," he states, "will be forwarded as soon as possible." The specimens were exhibited, and Mr. Bennett laid on the table a list in which they were enumerated as the *Sebastes Capensis*, *Agriopus torvus*, *Sciæna hololepidota*, *Otolithus æquidens*, *Chrysophris globiceps*, *Chr. gibbiceps*, and *Pagrus laniarius*, of MM. Cuvier and Valenciennes; an undetermined species of *Dentex*; a fish allied to *Oblada*, Cuv., and apparently the type of a new genus; a new species of *Scomber*, Cuv.; a *Lichia*?; two species of *Clinus*, Cuv., one of which is probably the *Clinus Capensis*; an undescribed species of *Bagrus*, Cuv., of the section distinguished in the "Règne Animal", by having six *cirri* and a rounded and smooth head; a species of *Scyllium*, Cuv., probably new to science; and a second species of the genus *Rhina*, Schn., which deviates from the type by a slight production of the front of the head, and thus makes an approach to *Rhinobates*, Schn.

Mr. Vigors exhibited several species of *Humming-birds* from the collection of Mr. John Gould, one of which, previously undescribed, had been dedicated to Mr. George Loddiges, F.L.S., &c. It approaches most nearly to the *Trochilus Lalandei*, Vieill. but may be distinguished from that bird (in which the crest is brilliantly green and the throat and breast rich blue,) by the following characters:

**TROCHILUS LODDIGESII**, Gould. *Troch. cristâ elongatâ, purpureo-lilacinâ; guld crissoque saturatè cinereis; pectore abdomineque nigris.*

This species is from Rio Grande.

Mr. Loddiges stated that both species belonged to a genus which he had distinguished among the *Trochilidæ* by the name of *Cephallepis*; and promised to bring before the Committee, at an early meeting, the results of his researches on the *Trochilidæ* generally.