

miles south of the first, is working in eocene deposits, the dawn period of mammalian life. The strata are extraordinarily rich in fossil remains. We have discovered the skull of a giant rhinoceros—like the beast known as the titanotheres, which, although it has been buried for three million years, is almost as perfect as though the animal had died a week ago. The titanotheres were previously only known in America. Finding this particular stage in their development shows that they crossed from America by way of a former land bridge to Asia.

We have found, also, remains of a giant dog-like carnivore, as well as many teeth and jaws of an ancestral tapir-like animal. We could spend easily a year's work in these great deposits, but will give them only enough time to get a few of the choicest things.

### THE GODMAN AND SALVIN MEMORIAL

A TABLET in memory of Frederick Du Cane Godman, F.R.S., and Osbert Salvin, F.R.S., has been unveiled by Lord Rothschild, chairman of the memorial committee, at the Natural History Museum, South Kensington, and accepted on behalf of the trustees of the British Museum by the Archbishop of Canterbury.

The London *Times* notes that these two distinguished men of science were intimately associated in research and the results of their labors form an important part of the treasures of the Natural History Museum. The friendship between them dated from the fifties of the last century, when they were both undergraduates at Cambridge, and lasted until the death in 1898 of Salvin, who was survived twenty-one years by Godman, the latter dying in 1919, in his eighty-sixth year. In 1876 the two friends conceived the idea of the monumental work entitled *Biologia Centrali-Americana*, which has been described as without doubt the greatest work of the kind ever planned and carried out by private individuals.

As completed, the *Biologia* consists of sixty-three volumes, of which one forms the introduction, fifty-one are devoted to zoology, five to botany, and six to archeology. The work was edited by Salvin and Godman, and after Salvin's death by Godman alone. The three volumes on the birds and three others on the diurnal lepidoptera were prepared by Godman and Salvin themselves, while the others were written by various specialists. The volumes contain 1,677 plates, of which more than nine hundred are colored, and the total number of species is 50,263, of which 19,263 are described for the first time.

In 1885 Godman and Salvin resolved to present their wonderful neo-tropical collections to the British Museum. Of birds' skins alone over 520,000 were contained in this magnificent donation, which included not only the collections made by Salvin and Godman themselves, chiefly in Guatemala, but many others from various parts of South America, the Mexican collections obtained by Godman himself and his col-

lectors, made in that country in 1887, and the great Henshaw collection of the birds of the United States containing over 13,000 specimens, which was secured by Godman in order to provide a thoroughly authentic series of North American birds for comparison with those of Mexico and Central America.

The commemorative tablet, with portraits in relief of Salvin and Godman, is placed on the wall of the central hall of the museum, near and behind the statue of Darwin.

Lord Rothschild, in presenting the tablet on behalf of the subscribers, explained that the committee had decided that any subscriptions left over after the memorial had been paid for should be devoted to a collecting fellowship. Shortly after that decision Dame Alice Godman and the Misses Godman devoted a further sum of £5,000 to the Godman Exploration Fund, to which others had given further donations.

The Archbishop of Canterbury, in accepting the tablet, expressed the cordial welcome given by the trustees to gifts of that kind. Mr. Godman was one with whom it had been his privilege to sit for years as one of the trustees on the committee of management of museum affairs. Those who shared that privilege knew well how wide was the range of his knowledge and how applicable it was to almost anything that might arise. The Archbishop commended the setting up of memorials of great representatives of science and great benefactors to the museum. In Mr. Godman they had not only one of the donors to whom they owed so much, but also a valued trustee. He wanted to emphasize the importance which seemed to him to attach to taking care that such names, such acts, such memories and such lives should not be forgotten by those who looked at the specimens and collections the museum contained. He believed that in thus recording the services rendered by men such as Mr. Godman and Mr. Salvin they were serving the best interests of the museum.

### SIR WILLIAM THISELTON-DYER

THE following letter, printed in *Nature*, has been addressed by British botanists to Sir William Thiselton-Dyer, who celebrated his eightieth birthday on July 28:

The occasion of your eightieth birthday affords us the opportunity of which we gladly avail ourselves, not only of offering you our congratulations upon having attained so venerable an age, but also of assuring you of our continued regard and esteem. In doing so we who sign this letter do but acknowledge our indebtedness to you for the inspiration and guidance which we, both as teachers and researchers, have derived directly or indirectly from your own early work as a professor of botany. We regard that work, and more especially the courses of practical instruction conducted by you at South Kensington