

ANALYSIS OF CONTENTS OF EACH VOLUME.

1. The 'Introductory Volume' includes the general preface to the whole work, Zoology, Botany, and Archæology, a complete list of the subjects contained in each Volume, general statistics, maps, &c. The 'Contents' of this Volume, which forms the first of the entire series, are given in detail on p. iii.

ZOOLOGY.

2. MAMMALIA: by E. R. Alston, with an Introduction by Dr. P. L. Sclater.

The author of this Volume died on March 7th, 1881, before the enumeration of the species was concluded. The MSS., however, of the Supplement (pp. 203–212) was left by Mr. Alston in an almost complete state, and was finished by Mr. O. Thomas in 1881. The Tables (I.–VIII.), printed in the Introduction, were drawn up at our request by the author shortly before his death, and Dr. P. L. Sclater gives an analysis of them in his Introductory remarks on the subject (pp. x–xix), published in 1882. The total number of species enumerated is 181, of which a complete list is given in the Introduction (pp. iv–ix). These fall into five categories: (i.) Nearctic, 48; (ii.) Neotropical, 65; (iii.) Neogean, 17; (iv.) Autochthonous, 47; and (v.) Introduced, 4 (*Mures*). The eight Tables drawn up by the author show: I. General distribution; II. Nearctic species (17) found in the Northern States of Mexico, but not recorded from south of 25° N. lat.; III. Nearctic species (18) found in Central and South Mexico, but not recorded from south of the Isthmus of Tehuantepec; IV. Nearctic species (8) extending to Guatemala and Honduras, but not recorded from south of Nicaragua; V. Nearctic species (5) extending to Costa Rica and Panama, but not recorded from south of the Isthmus of Panama; VI. Species (17) common to the Nearctic and Neotropical Regions; VII. Species (47) peculiar to Central America, or not yet ascertained to occur elsewhere; VIII. Distribution of the Neotropical genera. Dr. Sclater (p. xiv) summarizes the analysis of the Central American Mammal fauna as follows:—"It may fairly be said that (excluding the introduced *Mures*) at least 100 of the constituent species are essentially Neotropical in their character or have Neotropical affinities, while of the remainder not above 60 can be said to be decidedly Nearctic. There is therefore no doubt that the Central American isthmus, at any rate as far north as Tehuantepec, should be assigned to the Neotropical Region, of which it should be deemed to constitute a distinct province, characterized (1) by the incursion of a considerable number of Nearctic forms, especially in the northern districts, (2) by the presence of a certain number of peculiar