

At the same time lived another small animal, *Miolophus*, known only from a fragment now at York. It differs from most ungulates in having only a single inner cusp to the molars, so causing it to resemble a typical pre-molar. Another form, *Microcherus erinaceus*, is very aberrant, and its position is doubtful.

TESTIMONIAL TO DR. BENCE JONES

WE regret very much to hear that Dr. Bence Jones has been compelled on account of his health to resign the office of Secretary to the Royal Institution, a post which he has filled for so many years with equal honour to himself and advantage to the Institution.

His conviction of the value of original research, and of the special vocation of the Royal Institution to continue diligent in promoting it, was with him an unceasing stimulus to exertion. His attention to every detail left nothing neglected in the performance of his duties. His own scientific attainments have been of signal effect in maintaining respect for the Institution, and in procuring the co-operation of eminent men in the laboratories and lecture theatre. His love of the place and its memories has been shown by the pains he took to collect its early annals; including in this work an account of the discoveries of Young and Davy, and by his becoming the historian of Faraday.

The services of Dr. Bence Jones have been given under the pressure of important professional engagements, and latterly under the additional difficulties of failing health; and until now, when he has been reluctantly compelled to resign, he has never relaxed in the active prosecution of his honourable task.

We trust with the managers, however, that the aid of Dr. Bence Jones may not be altogether lost to the Institution; but that he will still afford to it the benefit of his counsels and experience. It is hoped that he may in future occupy a seat at the Board of Management; and further, that he will remain associated with the Institution by doing it the favour of accepting the position of Honorary Assistant-Secretary.

It has very naturally been proposed to present Dr. Bence Jones with a testimonial to be raised by subscription, and we feel confident that to so worthy a purpose there will be no lack of willing contributors. Individual subscriptions are limited to 3*l.* 3*s.* as a maximum.

It has been ascertained that the form of testimonial most agreeable to Dr. Bence Jones would be a bust of himself to be placed in the Royal Institution. Subscriptions to this testimonial may be paid either at the Royal Institution, or to "The Dr. Bence Jones Testimonial Account," at Messrs. Drummonds, the bankers, Charing Cross, who are authorised to receive the same.

CAPTAIN M. F. MAURY

MATTHEW FONTAINE MAURY, whose death, on Feb. 1, we recently recorded, was of French descent, and was born in Spotsylvania County, Virginia, Jan. 24, 1806. While still a child, his parents, who were in moderate circumstances, removed to Tennessee, where young Maury was sent to school. In 1825, when nineteen years old, he entered the service of the United States as midshipman, circumnavigating the globe in the *Vincennes*, during a cruise of four years. During this cruise Maury began his well-known "Treatise on Navigation," which was finished some years afterwards, and was for a long time used as a text-book in the U.S. navy. In 1836 he was made lieutenant and was gazetted astronomer to an exploring expedition.

In 1839, while travelling on professional duty, Lieut. Maury met with an accident which resulted in permanent

lameness and unfitted him for active service afloat. What appeared then as a great misfortune to the lieutenant resulted indirectly in an increase of his fame, and in the performance of services of high value to science and humanity. The lame lieutenant was placed in charge of the Dépôt of Charts and Instruments, out of which have grown the Naval Observatory and the Hydrographic Office of the United States. He laboured assiduously from the first day of his appointment to organise this dépôt more efficiently than formerly. How completely he succeeded is well known.

While sailing around the globe in the *Vincennes*, Maury made many observations as to the winds and currents. These he continued in his subsequent cruises. When he became superintendent of the Hydrographic Office he determined to do something towards elucidating the intricate subject of ocean meteorology. The beginnings of this great undertaking were small. Maury obtained at first copies of such log-books as he or his friends could command. He noted the direction of the wind, the currents, &c., on the maps which he had prepared. As the information came in, districts were filled up and places pointed out for investigation. In 1842 the system had taken such consistency in his own mind that the lieutenant communicated to the U.S. Naval Bureau of Ordnance and Hydrography a plan for supplying model log-books to the commanders of vessels in the naval and merchant marine service. These log-books are so arranged that a systematic series of observations might be registered. The plan succeeded so well that in eight or nine years he had thus collected a sufficient number of logs to make 200 manuscript volumes averaging each about 2,500 days' observations each. These materials were digested by a board of officers appointed for that purpose, and the more immediate result of their labours was to show the necessity for combined action on the part of the maritime nations in regard to ocean meteorology.

In order that his labours might lead to some practical result, Maury wrought zealously to bring about a meeting of meteorologists belonging to all maritime nations; this led to the conference which met at Brussels in 1853, at which England, France, Russia, Portugal, Belgium, Holland, Denmark, Norway and Sweden were represented, and which produced the greatest benefit to navigation, as well as indirectly to meteorology. One of its most eminent and practical results was the establishment in London of the Meteorological Department of the Board of Trade. It recommended a model log-book for all vessels, in which a brief and uniform register of the principal meteorological phenomena are entered. The British Admiralty, the Royal Society, and the British Association entered heartily into Maury's plans, and aided him in every possible way; though we are ashamed to say that England is almost the only civilised country in the world that did not confer on this great benefactor of humanity some mark of honour: other countries loaded him with well-deserved tributes of admiration and gratitude for his services.

At the outbreak of the American civil war in 1861 Maury threw in his lot with the South, and did much to strengthen its maritime defences and enable it to hold out for so long as it did. He afterwards retired to England, where he lived for many years, and where he was presented with a handsome testimonial raised by subscription, he having lost nearly his all through his attachment to the unfortunate South. Having offered his services to the ill-fated Maximilian, of Mexico, the latter appointed him Imperial Commissioner of Emigration; and after the fall of that short-lived empire, Maury returned to the United States, taking up his residence in Virginia, where he lived until his death, on February 1 last. During his later years he devoted his time and efforts to urging his fellow-citizens of the south to leave politics alone and