

conductivity and the electric conductivity of metals. These researches are described to the *Vierteljahrsschrift* of the Zurich *Naturforschende Gesellschaft*, 1879, Bd. xxiv. p. 252.

THE INDIA MUSEUM ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS

THE following letter on this subject has been sent us for publication:—

British Museum, March 17, 1880

MY LORD,—I am directed by the Trustees of the British Museum to acquaint your Lordship that Dr. Günther, the Keeper of the Department of Zoology in this Museum, has reported to them that he has completed the work of selecting from the zoological collections of the India Museum the specimens required for the British Museum, and of distributing the remainder among other institutions.

The accompanying extract from Dr. Günther's report shows in detail what has been done with those specimens which formed part of the India Museum, and what is proposed with reference to certain other specimens not included in the general transfer to the Trustees. I have, &c.,

(Signed) EDW. A. BOND

The Right Honourable the Secretary of State for India, &c., &c.

ZOOLOGICAL COLLECTIONS FROM THE INDIA MUSEUM

Extract from Report to the Trustees of the British Museum, by Dr. Günther, Keeper of the Department of Zoology. Dated March 8, 1880

1. For the British Museum have been selected and retained:—

- 672 Mammalia (mounted, or in skins, skeletons or skulls).
- 6,409 Birds.
- 125 Fishes.
- 28 Tortoises.
- 217 Mollusca.
- 83 Crustacea.
- 1,813 Insecta.
- 52 Radiata.
- 60 Jars and preparation of Economic Animal Products (besides some objects of manufacture transferred to the Ethnographical Department).

The Documents relating to the Zoological collections:—

2. A selection of the remainder was offered in succession to the Indian Museum, Calcutta; the Indian Institute, Oxford; the South Kensington Museum; the Dublin Museum; the Museum of Scarborough; and the Museum of Maidstone; the three first having been specially mentioned by the India Office as deserving precedence of other institutions.

a. The Agent of the Calcutta Museum selected:—

- 53 Mammalia and 3 Skulls of Mammals.
- A series of named shells.
- 3,140 Named Insects.
- A box of miscellaneous Insects. (The number of bird skins to be sent is not yet determined.)

b. Prof. Monier Williams, on behalf of the Indian Institute, Oxford, took the bulk of the remaining specimens, entering at the same time into an engagement to return them to the Trustees in case the project of the Institute were not carried out; he received:—

- 118 Mammalia.
- 37 Skulls and heads of Mammalia.
- 49 Horns of Mammalia.
- 2 Boxes containing various bones.
- 1 Narwhal's tusk.
- 1 Picture of a Flying Fox.
- 426 Stuffed Birds.
- 3 Boxes of Bird-skins.
- 5 Birds'-nests.
- 125 Bottles containing Reptiles and Fishes.
- 44 Stuffed Reptiles.
- 2 Models of Snakes.
- 1 Case of Stuffed Snakes.
- 94 Stuffed Fishes.
- 4 Models of Fishes.
- 1 Cabinet with Mollusks.
- 1 Box with Shells and Corals.
- 2 Boxes with Pearl Oysters, &c.

- 2 Boxes with Gorgonia.
- 2 Cases with Crustaceans
- 5 Cabinets with named Insects.
- 10 Old Store boxes with various Insects.
- 2 Echinoderms.
- 1 Neptune's Cup.
- 1 Cabinet with Miscellaneous Specimens; Eggs, Nest, Crustaceans, Shells, &c.

c. The South Kensington Museum took the whole of the collection of Economic Animal Products left after the selections for the British Museum and Kew had been made; the latter establishment receiving, by a special arrangement with the India Office, all products of silk and lac.

d. The Agent of the Science and Art Museum, Dublin, selected:—

- 7 Stuffed Mammals.
- 8 Skulls of Mammals.
- 1 Horn of *Cervus duvancellii*.
- 5 Tortoises.
- 4 Bottles containing Reptiles.

e. The Agent of the Philosophical Society of Scarborough selected:—

- 10 Mammalia.

f. The Agent of the Museum of Maidstone took the whole of the remaining specimens, viz:—

- 103 Stuffed Mammals.
- 10 Skulls.

Before commencing the work of distribution Dr. Günther received intimation from Dr. Birdwood that certain specimens were not included in the general transfer to the Trustees, viz:—

1. Four small cases of stuffed Birds from Kashgar and an Ibex, belonging to Dr. Bellew, and lent by him to the Indian Museum for exhibition. These specimens would be a valuable acquisition to the British Museum, and therefore Dr. Günther has written to Dr. Bellew, who is at present in Afghanistan, that he would propose to the Trustees to continue the custody of them until instructions shall have been received from him as to their disposal.

2. A case of Wild Dogs, lent for exhibition by Mr. T. Webber, whose address is unknown at present. Dr. Günther would propose to undertake the temporary custody of this case until it is claimed by the owner.

METEOR SHOWERS¹

SEVERAL of the meteor streams observed at Bristol within the last two years appear to be of such marked intensity as to merit special description, and the following notes in connection with five of these may possess some interest to observers.

No.	Epoch.	Radiant.		Date of Maximum.
		α	δ	
I. ...	July 30-Aug. 1 ...	32 + 53 ...	July 31, 1878.	
II. ...	July 27-30 ...	341 - 13 ...	July 27, 28, 1878-9.	
III. ...	August 21-25 ...	291 + 60 ...	August 21-23, 1879.	
IV. ...	October 14-20 ...	31 + 9 ...	October 15, 1879.	
V. ...	August 8-11 ...	44 + 25 ...	August 8-11.	

I. At the middle of July, 1877, a few meteors were traced from a radiant point at $36^{\circ} + 47'$, and on projecting a large number of meteor tracks registered in foreign catalogues for the period July 25-31, I found the same shower amply manifested from 25 paths, though the radiant was 5° higher in declination. A succession of clear nights occurred from July 26 to August 2 in 1878, and I obtained some lengthy observations. In about twenty-two hours of watching more than 400 shooting stars were seen in the eastern sky, chiefly amongst the constellations of Perseus, Cassiopeia, and Andromeda. I saw many swift meteors leaving short streaks and otherwise exhibiting much uniformity in their appearances and directions. The radiant point was not reconcilable with that of the well-known annual shower of Perseids. It was sharply defined about 3° S. of the group χ Persei, and the maximum of the shower was witnessed on July 31, when 21 meteors were noted diverging from the point described. In all I saw 63 meteors conforming to this stream; they were short and quick, always with streaks of 3° or 4° in the latter portion of their flights. I looked for the shower again in 1879, and

¹ Extract from a paper in the *Monthly Notices* of the Royal Astronomical Society, vol. xl., No. 3 (January, 1880).