

Scientific Nomenclature

THE Kakapo or Night Kaka of New Zealand, *Strigops habroptilus*, described in NATURE at p. 190 as the ground parrot, is called the owl-parrot by Mr. Wood in the current number of the "Student." So long as both names are given there is no confusion, but it is otherwise if a full description is omitted; and I have to suggest that it is very desirable to adopt a uniform usage upon all occasions.

It is curious to notice the analogy between the words *psittakos* of ancient Greece and the *Kaka* of aboriginal New Zealand; as the Greek word has been traced to a Sanscrit origin it would seem that the New Zealand word must have originated since the Aryan descent upon India.

A. H.

NATURAL SCIENCE AT CAMBRIDGE

THE following Lectures in Natural Sciences will be delivered at Trinity, St. John's and Sidney Sussex Colleges during the Lent Term, 1871. On Electricity (for the Natural Sciences Tripos,) by Mr. Trotter, Trinity College, in lecture room No. 11, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, at 10, commencing February 4. On Electricity and Magnetism (for the special examination for the B.A. degree), by Mr. Trotter, Trinity College, in lecture room No. 11, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, at 10, commencing Wednesday, February 1. On Chemistry, by Mr. Main, St. John's College, on Tuesdays, Thursdays, Saturdays, at 12, in St. John's College, Laboratory, commencing Tuesday, January 31. Instruction in Practical Chemistry will also be given. On Geology, by Mr. Bonney, St. John's College: (1) Palæontology, on Wednesdays and Fridays, at 9, commencing Wednesday, February 1; (2) Lyell's Principles of Geology, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, at 9, commencing Tuesday, January 31; (3) Elementary Lectures on Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11, commencing Tuesday, January 31. On Structural and Morphological Botany, by Mr. Hicks Sidney College, in the College Laboratory, on Mondays, Wednesdays, Fridays, at 10, commencing Wednesday, February 1. On Physiology, by the Trinity Prælector of Physiology (Dr. M. Foster), at the New Museums, on Wednesdays, Thursdays, Fridays, at 11, beginning Wednesday, February 1. The Physiological Laboratory will be open for practical instruction in Physiology daily.

It may be remembered that a year ago we pointed out some defects in the prospectus issued for the intercollegiate teaching of Natural Science by Trinity and St. John's Colleges, Cambridge. We are glad to find that, as will be found from the above statement, these have been rectified, and that by the appointment by Trinity College of Dr. Michael Foster as Prælector of Physiology, and by combining with Sidney College, and so availing themselves of the services of Mr. Hicks of that College, who obtained the first place in the Natural Sciences Tripos, as lecturer on Structural and Morphological Botany, the staff has been greatly strengthened, and the prospect of thorough teaching proportionately increased. The lectures are open to members of the other colleges upon payment of a small fee.

OCEANIC VERTEBRATES*

SO far as concerns their distribution, animals may be divided into two classes, the tenants of the land and fresh waters, and the inhabitants of the ocean. In the one case their boundaries depend upon the form and extent of continents past and present; on the other, upon the corresponding limits of the ocean.

Little enough is as yet known with certainty about the general distribution of terrestrial animals; about those of

the ocean we are still more ignorant. It is, therefore, with great pleasure that we have received Prof. Giglioli's notes on the vertebrated animals which were met with during the voyage of the Italian frigate *Magenta* round the world. The scientific command of this expedition was originally entrusted to Prof. Philippi of Turin. Upon his lamented death at Hong Kong, the author of the present treatise, we believe, succeeded to the post, and is now busily engaged in working out the results obtained by the expedition in every branch of natural history. The present memoir, although founded on observations made during the voyage of the *Magenta*, seems to be only incidentally connected therewith, and to have been prepared with reference to a competition for the Chair of Zoology and Comparative Anatomy at the Royal Institute of Practical Studies in Florence.

Professor Giglioli commences his remarks by treating of the oceanic fishes met with during his voyages. Although it is quite true, according to the popular idea, that the sea is full of fishes, it must be recollected that those that inhabit the mid-ocean are quite distinct from those that swarm round the coasts, and are not nearly so numerous. At the same time, many of them are remarkable for their brilliant colour, and are otherwise of special interest. It is difficult, says Professor Giglioli, to describe the beauty of the *Coryphæna hippuris* when first taken from the water: a thousand different tints of deep azure and golden yellow sparkle over its body, which, however, fade upon death with surprising celerity. Other oceanic fishes are the large *Thersytes*, various species of Tunny, the well-known Pilot fish (*Naucrates*), and the *Echeneis*, concerning which such marvellous tales are told by ancient writers. But, perhaps, the most attractive of all the group to the oceanic traveller are the flying fishes (*Exocoetus*). Of this genus six species were met with during the voyage of the *Magenta*, each appearing to have a peculiar district of the ocean assigned to its range.

Of the class of reptiles which Professor Giglioli next speaks of, two orders only have oceanic representatives—namely, the Ophidia and Testudinata. Of the sea-snakes three species were met with belonging to the genera *Hydrophis* and *Pelamis*. This peculiar family of serpents was formerly supposed to be confined to the Indian Ocean; but it has of late years been discovered to extend its range over the Pacific, even up to the Gulf of Panama. Of the marine Turtles likewise three species, all well known, were observed.

The class of birds, which follows third in Prof. Giglioli's memoir, is much better represented on the so-called "desolate" ocean. Members of four large families of this class frequent the seas traversed by the *Magenta*, which were chiefly those belonging to the southern hemisphere. These are the Penguins (*Spheniscidæ*), the Petrels (*Procellariidæ*), the Gulls (*Lariidæ*), and the Pelicans (*Pelicanidæ*). A fifth great oceanic family, the Auk (*Alcidæ*), replaces the penguins in the Arctic Seas, and was not met with by Prof. Giglioli. The most abundant of all oceanic birds are, of course, the petrels and albatrosses, of the family Procellariidæ, many of which pass by far the greater part of their lives in mid-ocean. Upwards of forty species of this group are enumerated as having been encountered during the circumnavigation of the *Magenta*, amongst which are several supposed to be new to science, and which are provided with new names accordingly.

The mammals of the ocean, which the present memoir lastly treats of, belong to three very different orders: the Cetaceans, Seals, and Sirenians. Of these the first alone pass their whole existence in the salt sea. All the marine Carnivores, so far as we know, habitually resort to land, or at all events to ice, which in polar regions serves the same purpose, and of the few existing members of the Sirenia, one at least is rather an inhabitant of fresh water than of salt. Prof. Giglioli's observations are chiefly confined to the Cetaceans, of which thirteen or fourteen

* Note intorno alla distribuzione, della Fauna Vertebrata nell'oceano, presso durante un viaggio intorno al Globo, 1865-68, dal Professore Enrico Hillyer Giglioli. Firenze, 1870, 8vo. 96 pp.