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CONTENTS.

(B)

VOL. 206.

List of Illustrations	page v
Advertisement	vii

I. CROONIAN LECTURE: <i>On the Origin of Mammals.</i> By ROBERT BROOM, M.D., D.Sc. Communicated by Prof. G. ELLIOT-SMITH, F.R.S.	page 1
II. <i>Report of the Monte Rosa Expedition of 1911.</i> By J. BARCROFT, F.R.S., M. CAMIS, C. G. MATHISON, FF. ROBERTS, and J. H. RYFFEL	49
III. <i>Analyses of Agricultural Yield.</i> Part I.— <i>The Spacing Experiment with Egyptian Cotton, 1912.</i> By W. LAWRENCE BALLS, M.A., late Fellow of St. John's College, Cambridge, and FRANCIS S. HOLTON. Communicated by Dr. F. F. BLACKMAN, F.R.S.	103
IV. <i>The Excitatory Process in the Dog's Heart.</i> Part II.— <i>The Ventricles.</i> By THOMAS LEWIS and M. A. ROTHSCHILD. Communicated by Prof. E. H. STARLING, F.R.S.	181
V. <i>Contributions to the Study of the Bionomics and Reproductive Processes of the Foraminifera.</i> By EDWARD HERON-ALLEN, F.L.S., F.Z.S., F.G.S., F.R.M.S. Communicated by Prof. W. A. HERDMAN, F.R.S.	227
VI. <i>A Description of the Skull and Skeleton of a Peculiarly Modified Rupicaprine Antelope (Myotragus balearicus, Bate), with a Notice of a New Variety, M. balearicus var. major.</i> By CHAS. W. ANDREWS, D.Sc., F.R.S. (Brit. Mus. Natural History). Communicated by permission of the Trustees of the British Museum	281

VII. *The Endemic Flora of Ceylon, with Reference to Geographical Distribution and Evolution in General.* By J. C. WILLIS, M.A., Sc.D., Director of the Botanic Gardens, Rio de Janeiro. Communicated by D. H. SCOTT, For. Sec. R.S. page 307

VIII. *Experiments on the Restoration of Paralysed Muscles by Means of Nerve Anastomosis.* Part III.—*Anastomosis of the Brachial Plexus, with a Consideration of the Distribution of its Roots.* By ROBERT KENNEDY, M.A., D.Sc., M.D., St. Mungo Professor of Surgery in the University of Glasgow. Communicated by Prof. J. G. MCKENDRICK, F.R.S. 343

IX. *Analyses of Agricultural Yield.* Part II.—*The Sowing-Date Experiment with Egyptian Cotton, 1913.* By W. LAWRENCE BALLS, M.A. (Cantab.), and F. S. HOLTON. Communicated by Dr. F. F. BLACKMAN, F.R.S. 403

Index to Volume 481

LIST OF ILLUSTRATIONS.

Plates 1-7.—Dr. ROBERT BROOM on the Origin of Mammals.

Plates 8-12.—Messrs. THOMAS LEWIS and M. A. ROTHSCHILD on the Excitatory Process in the Dog's Heart. Part II.—The Ventricles.

Plates 13-18.—Mr. EDWARD HERON-ALLEN on the Study of the Bionomics and Reproductive Processes of the Foraminifera.

Plates 19-22.—Mr. CHAS. W. ANDREWS on the Skull and Skeleton of a Peculiarly Modified Rupicaprine Antelope (*Myotragus balearicus*, Bate), with a Notice of a New Variety, *M. balearicus* var. *major*.

Plates 23 and 24.—Prof. ROBERT KENNEDY on Experiments on the Restoration of Paralysed Muscles by Means of Nerve Anastomosis. Part III.—Anastomosis of the Brachial Plexus, with a Consideration of the Distribution of its Roots.

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THE Committee appointed by the *Royal Society* to direct the publication of the *Philosophical Transactions* take this opportunity to acquaint the public that it fully appears, as well from the Council-books and Journals of the Society as from repeated declarations which have been made in several former *Transactions*, that the printing of them was always, from time to time, the single act of the respective Secretaries till the Forty-seventh Volume; the Society, as a Body, never interesting themselves any further in their publication than by occasionally recommending the revival of them to some of their Secretaries, when, from the particular circumstances of their affairs, the *Transactions* had happened for any length of time to be intermitted. And this seems principally to have been done with a view to satisfy the public that their usual meetings were then continued, for the improvement of knowledge and benefit of mankind: the great ends of their first institution by the Royal Charters, and which they have ever since steadily pursued.

But the Society being of late years greatly enlarged, and their communications more numerous, it was thought advisable that a Committee of their members should be appointed to reconsider the papers read before them, and select out of them such as they should judge most proper for publication in the future *Transactions*; which was accordingly done upon the 26th of March, 1752. And the grounds of their choice are, and will continue to be, the importance and singularity of the subjects, or the advantageous manner of treating them: without pretending to answer for the certainty of the facts, or propriety of the reasonings contained in the several papers so published, which must still rest on the credit or judgment of their respective authors.

It is likewise necessary on this occasion to remark, that it is an established rule of the Society, to which they will always adhere, never to give their opinion, as a Body,

upon any subject, either of Nature or Art, that comes before them. And therefore the thanks, which are frequently proposed from the Chair, to be given to the authors of such papers as are read at their accustomed meetings, or to the persons through whose hands they received them, are to be considered in no other light than as a matter of civility, in return for the respect shown to the Society by those communications. The like also is to be said with regard to the several projects, inventions, and curiosities of various kinds, which are often exhibited to the Society; the authors whereof, or those who exhibit them, frequently take the liberty to report, and even to certify in the public newspapers, that they have met with the highest applause and approbation. And therefore it is hoped that no regard will hereafter be paid to such reports and public notices; which in some instances have been too lightly credited, to the dishonour of the Society.