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## THE RANGE OF THE FOX SNAKE.

TO THE EDITOR OF SCIENCE: Cope (*Rept. U. S. Nat. Mus.*, 1898, p. 832) gives the range of the fox snake, *Coluber vulpinus* B. & G., as 'distributed over the northwest of the eastern district, not being known from east of Illinois or south of the mouth of the Missouri River.' Dr. J. A. Allen in 1869 (*Proc. Bos. Soc. Nat. Hist.*, 12, 171 ff.) mentioned a specimen of this snake taken in the vicinity of Wenham, Mass., in 1861. Cope apparently overlooked this record. Eckel, in his recently published 'Catalogue of the Reptiles of New York' (*Bull.* 51, N. Y. State Museum), gives it a doubtful place on the strength of this record of Dr. Allen's.

Aside from this single case, no record has been made, to my knowledge, of the occurrence of this snake in any state east of Illinois with the exception of Ohio. In the vicinity of Sandusky, east and west along the lake, the fox snake is found. On Cedar Point—a tongue of sand twelve miles long and a few hundred yards wide at best—several specimens have also been taken. The specimens from these localities are in the Zoological Museum of the Ohio State University.

Owing to the fact that several species of plants and animals of pronounced western type have been found in this region, it appears that this may form an eastward arm of the zoogeographical as well as the phytogeographical district to the west. Hence, any information as to the occurrence of the fox snake east of Illinois will be welcomed by the undersigned.

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## A PROPOSED AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION.

DURING the Convocation Week of 1901-1902, there were meetings of the Section of Anthropology of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, the American Folk-Lore Society, and several other organizations, in Chicago. In connection with these meetings there was, on December 31, a conference of committees on the needs of

American anthropology appointed by the Anthropological Society of Washington, the American Ethnographical Society, and the Section of Anthropology of the A. A. A. S. The participants in the conference were Franz Boas, Stewart Culin, Roland B. Dixon, George A. Dorsey, Livingston Farrand, J. Walter Fewkes, George G. MacCurdy, W. J. McGee, Frank Russell, and Frederick Starr. Although little constructive action was taken at Chicago, the conference resulted in a general feeling that more definite cooperation among American anthropologists would be advantageous.

Subsequently several of the conferees engaged in correspondence pursuant to the deliberations in Chicago, which soon served to bring out and strengthen the feeling that some sort of organization was needful; and in the course of a few weeks preliminary steps were taken toward the formation of an association of American anthropologists of national character. The most important action was the selection of a number of prospective founders of the proposed association, from whom expressions were invited. Most of the anthropologists so addressed have replied, and nearly all of these decidedly favor organization. Accordingly, arrangements have been made for a founding meeting, to be held at Pittsburgh in connection with the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, in the audience room of Bellefield Church, on Monday, June 30, at 2 o'clock P.M. Provisional arrangements are also under way for a scientific meeting of the new organization in connection with Section H (Anthropology) of the A. A. A. S. on Wednesday, July 2.

The most serious question brought out in the preliminary correspondence and conferences is, Shall the new association be strictly professional or of more general character? With the view of holding the settlement of this question in abeyance pending the completion of the organization, it was thought better by the Chicago conferees to limit invitations to the founding meeting to about forty of the leading anthropologists of the country. The invitations are now being sent

out by Dr. George A. Dorsey, of the Field Columbian Museum. W J M.

*THE AMERICAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE  
ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.*

THE American Association for the Advancement of Science holds its fifty-first annual meeting at Pittsburgh from June 28 to July 3, and in affiliation with it a number of scientific societies hold their meetings. Announcements in regard to the meetings will be found in the issue of SCIENCE for May 23. Letters in regard to the meeting may be addressed to the permanent secretary, Dr. L. O. Howard, Hotel Schenley, Pittsburgh, Pa., or to the local secretary, Mr. George A. Wardlaw, Post-office Box 78, Station A, Pittsburg.

*SCIENTIFIC NOTES AND NEWS.*

DR. WILLIAM H. FORWOOD has succeeded Dr. George M. Sternberg as surgeon-general of the army. His services during and since the Civil War have been distinguished, and he is the author of important contributions to military surgery and of papers on natural science. Dr. Forwood is brigadier-general and senior officer in the medical department of the army. His retirement under the age limit will occur next Saturday.

THE dinner in honor of Surgeon-General George M. Sternberg, to which we have called attention, occurred in New York on June 13. Addresses were made by Dr. E. G. Janeway, Dr. A. H. Smith, Colonel Henry Lippincott, Dr. William Osler, Major W. C. Gorgas, Dr. John A. Wyeth, Dr. Frank Billings and Dr. W. H. Welch. Dr. Sternberg also spoke.

AT its recent commencement exercises Princeton University conferred the degree of LL.D. on Dr. H. F. Osborn, professor of zoology at Columbia University.

PRESIDENT HENRY SMITH PRITCHETT, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, gave the convocation address at the University of Chicago on June 15.

DR. J. WALTER FEWKES, of the Bureau of American Ethnology, has just returned from a successful ethnologic and archeologic reconnaissance of Porto Rico.

DR. FRANK RUSSELL has brought to a close a year's work in Arizona under the auspices of the Bureau of American Ethnology. Some months were spent in archeologic reconnaissances and surveys; since January he has been occupied with studies of the sociology and mythology of the Pima Indians at Sacaton and elsewhere. Dr. Russell will resume his work in Harvard during the autumn.

DR. ALBERT E. JENKS, ethnologist in the Bureau of American Ethnology, sailed from San Francisco on the 15th instant for Manila, pursuant to a transfer of a year to the Philippine service. He will be associated with Dr. David P. Barrows, chief of the Philippine Bureau of Non-Christian Tribes.

ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OSCAR QUICK, of the Department of Physics, University of Illinois, Urbana, Illinois, has resigned his position to go into practical electrical engineering work.

THE Pathological Institute of the University of Prague will celebrate next year the twentieth anniversary of the directorship of Professor Hlava. A commemorative volume is in preparation.

MR. E. CUNNINGHAM, St. Johns College, is this year senior wrangler at Cambridge.

THE Paris Academy of Sciences has sent M. Lacroix, of the Museum of Natural History; M. Rollet de Lisle, the engineer, and M. Giraud, the geologist, to investigate the effects of the volcanic eruption in the Lesser Antilles. They embarked on June 9, and will spend several months on the islands.

THE Loubat prize for 1902 has been awarded by the Swedish Royal Academy of Literature, History and Antiquity to Mr. C. V. Hartman for his publications concerning his archeological and ethnological researches in San Salvador and Costa Rica.

IN honor of the late Alpheus Hyatt a memorial fund is being collected for field lessons in natural history. Professor Hyatt was greatly interested in extending the teaching of natural history to the schools and this memorial appears to be especially appropriate. While the fund will be administered by a board of trustees at Boston contributions from Professor Hyatt's former pupils or friends, wherever