

polished, vertical surfaces, must serve as my excuse for obtruding once more on the attention of naturalists a subject that has been the occasion of so much controversy.

Further Note on a Skeleton of *Dinornis robustus*, Owen, in the York Museum. By THOMAS ALLIS, Esq., F.L.S.

[Read Nov. 17, 1864.]

IN my paper on the *Dinornis* read before the Society on the 16th of June, I stated that the three dorsal vertebræ immediately above the sacrum were normally anchylosed; when we mounted the skeleton we found that was not the case, and we separated all these vertebræ. It was so long since I had employed myself in comparative osteology, that I had forgotten that to have these bones anchylosed is only the normal condition of birds which possess the power of flight; having discovered the mistake, I feel it a duty to acknowledge and rectify it. We also found that we have the first phalanx of the left middle toe; we thought we wanted every bone of that toe: we further found that all the phalanges of the left outer toe, as well as part of the condyle to which they were articulated, have lost the whole of their periosteum, in consequence of their exposure to atmospheric change and influence from their near approach to the external circumference of the sand-drift in which the bird was entombed. I stated that the only figure of the *Dinornis* to which we had access gave the bird but two sternal ribs. Professor Owen informs me that that had been corrected in vol. iv. (pl. 46) of the 'Zoological Transactions.'

In the report of my former paper I am made to say, "that the middle cervical vertebræ had suffered from exposure above the surface of the ground." What I said, or meant to say, was, that they were so high in the sand-drift as to be within reach of the deleterious influence of the atmosphere; while the other parts of the skeleton were at a sufficient depth to be secured from its influence, with the exception of the left toe before alluded to. Had the vertebræ been above the surface, it would have been impossible for so many detached bones to have been preserved in the regular succession in which we find them; the nine cervical vertebræ we have, are evidently the lowest nine in the series.

In the cavities of the sacrum we found a good deal of impal-

pable sand, and there can be no doubt that the beautiful state in which most of the bones are found is mainly owing to the extreme fineness of the sand in which they were imbedded.

For the acceptance of the Society I send three more photographs; one showing the right side of the *Dinornis* as mounted; another showing the left side, together with a full-sized Ostrich; and another of the Cassowary, the Emu, and the Rhea. The Rhea is the only bird in the group agreeing with the *Dinornis* in the number of sternal ribs; the Emu and Cassowary have four each, and the Ostrich five; but in the side of the Ostrich shown on the photograph there are only four,—the dorsal rib, to which the fifth should have been attached, terminates in a point, and has no articulatory surface at the end; the sternum is equally without any articulatory surface to receive it; in the other side the bird has the normal number of five sternal ribs.

Brief notice of results obtained by Experiments with Entozoa.

By T. SPENCER COBBOLD, M.D., F.R.S., F.L.S.

[Read Dec. 1, 1864.]

1. *Tænia echinococcus*.—Eight separate worm-feedings with fresh *Echinococcus*-larvæ administered to five different dogs gave only negative results. In one instance the experimental animal, to which I had made three separate administrations, was unfortunately liberated by some ill-disposed person the evening prior to the day fixed for ascertaining the result. This dog had been sixteen weeks under observation.

2. *Tænia serrata*.—Three administrations of full-grown larvæ (*Cysticercus pisiformis*) to three separate dogs gave positive results in two instances; the third experiment being partly negatived. In all cases the administration of imperfectly developed larvæ to the same animals produced no tapeworms. The results of a fourth experiment, in three separate worm-feedings, with the dog which had been liberated, could not, of course, be ascertained.

3. *Tænia marginata*.—The administration of fresh eggs of this tapeworm to a monkey failed to develope any examples of the *Cysticercus tenuicollis*.

4. *Tænia cucumerina*.—In like manner the ova of this highly characteristic species administered to several cockroaches (*Blatta orientalis*) yielded only negative results.

5. *Fasciola hepatica*.—The deposition of the eggs of the com-



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