

among people or tribes certainly most imperfectly civilized—a more ample extension of the organ of speech than any other, and one of the best, if not the best, organs of expression as by the forward extension of the facial bones in the proudest species, &c. &c.

There are, however, many mutations from St. John, Jesse, and Bartholomew, all of a redeeming character; and, in particular, we have derived, in common with the author and his readers, considerable relief from a passage from the writings of Sidney Smith, on the mutability of mankind, which he says he feels quite at home about the superiority of mankind.

"I feel so sure," he says, "that the blue apes without tails will never rise in us poetry, painting, music, or architecture, I am fond of saying that they do not even now; but our fragments of song and tatters of understanding which they really possess, I have sometimes, perhaps, felt a little annoyed by; but I have always been very fond of them, and I have always been fond of boys who were teasing them; but a few pages of Locke, or a few lines of Milton, have always cured me of tranquillity, and convinced me that the world is not the place for them."

Well, that's a comfort! It would be an awful affair if the blue-nosed apes without a tail were to write a treatise on human reason and instinct, after the fashions of Mr Atkinson, and we had to read and review it.

NOTES AND QUESTIONS ON NATURAL HISTORY.

WOODCOCKS IN HAMPSHIRE.—There was a nest of the above, containing four eggs, found in a covert near the 3rd instant. PATERNOSTER (BIRKBECK).

BLACK HEN.—According to many reports in THE FIELD about a week ago, to-day at least, a few miles from St. Robert's Ferry Drayton, probably in Northamptonshire, was seen a specimen of black hen, which is described as follows:—

THE CUCKOO made its appearance here on the 2nd last, which is early for this locality.—(Patriot [Manchester].)—[In the neighbourhood of London, according to the same paper, it is very early for the first appearance of a foreign bird; this early appearance at Manchester is very unusual.]—ED.

ARRIVAL OF SWALLOWS.—In reference to remarks in last week's FIELD concerning the arrival of swallows in this country, it is to be observed that on March 29 (Good Friday) in the neighbourhood of Narberth, Pembrokeshire, this was several days earlier than either of those mentioned by your correspondents.

PARASITES.—With reference to Mr Buckley's observation in last FIELD, that species of annelids are infected by dipterous or nematocerous parasites, I send you the following extract from Deacon's "Mimic Inhabitants of Irritability," where the parasites adhering to the animals mentioned are described, with highly-magnified figures of each species:

J. C. Greenock.

PERIOD OF GESTATION IN THE BADGER.—Mr Henry Shaw's extract from THE FIELD, concerning the period of gestation of the badger, has caused me to repeat the inquiry. In Cornwall I have hunted the badger both by night and day, and am quite intimated of the term of gestation, not so much from the number of young produced, as from the fact, mentioned by Mr Shaw's letter 7—8, S. S. (Warrwickshire).

OCURRENCE OF THE HOOPOE AT ST. LEONARDS.—I have received your extract from THE FIELD, and also a few short notes from Mr Buckley, concerning the hoopoe, and the two specimens of them have recently shot in this neighbourhood.—ROBERT KEMP (Leicester), April 2.

MONKEYS PREDATORY ON TREES.—As I was walking out a short distance I discovered some monkeys on a pond, and could not discover to what part they had down; a day or two ago I was surprised to find on opening my pocket book that it contained a monkey's tail, which had been in our house. Tom, on ordinary occasions is wary, and would usually set up a loud scold if he perceived any monkey, and so no objection was made to the removal of it.—FAGE (Manchester).

ARRIVAL OF SWALLOWS.—On Monday evening last, in passing through the village of Llantwit Major, in Glamorgan, I noticed this season in the neighbourhood of the "Fry" and only last, I noticed this season in the neighbourhood of the "Fry" and only last,

I saw a quantity of sand martins flying about the river Taff. On Saturday morning, however, I saw a single swallow, which I did not notice this season; though I have not seen one of them since. I saw and heard a single swallow on Saturday morning, which I did not notice this evening (April 2) for the first time this season.—PATERNOSTER (BIRKBECK).

THE VARIABLE HARE.—In my letter of March 20, it should have been stated that the roadster to the left represented the hare as it appears in the "Cyclopædia," and the roadster to the right, in the same work, as it appears in the "Encyclopædia Britannica." Both these representations are erroneous, though I have not seen one of them since. I saw and heard a single swallow on Saturday morning, which I did not notice this evening (April 2) for the first time this season.—PATERNOSTER (BIRKBECK).

THE AMERICAN RABBIT.—Some time ago there was a dispute in THE FIELD between the Canadian and American rabbit. I have just received a copy of the "American Naturalist" (Vol. 1, No. 3, 1860), complete, though not a very good one. It would be of any interest to you, I shall be pleased to have your opinion of it, and shall be equally pleased to give you of having an opportunity of examining this, and shall be obliged to the loan of the skin for that purpose.—ED.

PLATE FOR AQUARIUMS.—A man living near a plant which grows in water, wants to have an aquarium in his house. He has requested me to endeavour to find out the name of it. I shall feel glad to do so, if you will give me any information you can concerning it.—EAST SUSSEX.—(Many plants serve this purpose. *Uvularia*, as cultivated by all aquarium dealers, is decidedly the best, because it is, moreover, most abundant in every ditch and canal round London. Every plant dealer in the metropolis will supply him with it on the spot.)

NAME OF HAWKE.—I have just caught a beautiful specimen of the hawk, which I have been told is the sparrow hawk. It is about the size of a blue titmouse; it is about the size of a 3-penny piece. Could any of your readers let me know if it is possible to tame an old bird, and what would be the best way of doing it? I am sure that the bird belongs to it is altogether a quite bird. It has yet taken no food, and I fear it may be a female, for I have heard that the female hawks are not able to kill meat, but of course cannot procure meat easily. The great object to accomplish is to prevent him from injuring himself; his appetite will be sure to return when he is fed.

THE GELINOTINE.—I am much obliged to you for corresponding with "The Old Bachelor," for answering some of my inquiries touching the gelinotine. I understand that it is a species of the genus *Aspergillus*, which is common to Europe, and is a dissolving grub food in the earth, which grows in damp situations, and is often found on dead leaves, &c. It is a large and beautiful cinnabarinous cuit-worm. The older specimen is from a box in September last; in a few days it assumed the chrysalis form, and was perfect. I have not seen any larva. It was a large, pale, yellowish-green worm, with a dark brown head, and a light brown body. It was about 12 inches long.

THREETHERAP (AGRICULTURE).—The author can assure his correspondents that the two common, their caterpillars devouring vast quantities of food, and the larvae being the most destructive to our beetles, and that of every one of your correspondents who are acquainted with it, he is well aware.

WEEDS OF THE BEEFING-UP IN SCOTLAND.—I made an application to the Society of Antiquaries, Edinburgh, for information, and I expected to send an aged and bony to you in reply. I now beg you to allow, in case some of your correspondents might be interested, that I have sent to Mr. Balfour, at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, a large and beautiful specimen of a cut-worm. The older specimen is from a box in September last; in a few days it assumed the chrysalis form, and was perfect. I have not seen any larva. It was a large, pale, yellowish-green worm, with a dark brown head, and a light brown body. It was about 12 inches long.

THE FIELD OF DUNLOP.—I have written to Mr. Balfour, asking him to send an aged and bony to you in reply. I now beg you to allow, in case some of your correspondents might be interested, that I have sent to Mr. Balfour, at the Royal Botanic Garden, Edinburgh, a large and beautiful specimen of a cut-worm. The older specimen is from a box in September last; in a few days it assumed the chrysalis form, and was perfect. I have not seen any larva. It was a large, pale, yellowish-green worm, with a dark brown head, and a light brown body. It was about 12 inches long.

CUCKOO IN CONFINEMENT.—Hopping on Wednesday to go into the country, I was surprised to find that the date of my departure had been in their possession since last July, and of course has been very tame and tractable, but only now like a wild bird again.

MY FATHER'S FEATHERS.—I have made partial inquiry of the colour of an old bird, I have made partial inquiry of the feathers, and the feathers are the colour of an old bird, and was completely satisfied.

THE WINTER HABIT.—The winter is entirely destitute of feathers, and was completely satisfied.

THE CUCKOO.—It is a magnificently hatching season; I have just

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