

branching off in two fundamentally different lines,  
 can be shown to exist, until we reach the  
 eyes a high stage of perfection, in certain instances  
 however, for instance, in a further corner, to view one  
 divided into facets, within each of which there is a  
 lens-shaped swelling; in the transparent ~~cornea~~ <sup>cornea</sup> ~~substant~~  
 roof coated of pigment, which projects out of the  
 including all lateral <sup>facets</sup> ~~facets~~ & light, are <sup>very</sup> ~~rough~~ at their  
 upper extremities, & must ~~be~~ <sup>be</sup> out of coincidence; & at  
 their lower extremities they seem to be ~~substant~~ <sup>substant</sup> a  
 vitreous substance. With other facts, & bearing in  
 mind how small the number of living animals <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~  
 to them, which have become extinct, I can  
 see no way great difficulty, but more than in the  
 case of many <sup>of</sup> ~~of~~ structures, in natural selection  
 connecting an <sup>opaque</sup> ~~opaque~~ <sup>roof</sup> ~~roof~~ coated of pigment, &  
 with the transparent non-brown, into a perfect  
 one of the <sup>in</sup> ~~in~~ <sup>translucent</sup> ~~translucent~~ or is supplied of very  
 members of the <sup>distichate</sup> ~~distichate~~ <sup>cl. of</sup> ~~cl. of~~  
 He also will see this far; if on finishing this  
 he thinks large bodies of facts <sup>are</sup> ~~are~~  
 applicable to the theory of <sup>descent</sup> ~~descent~~ natural selection,  
 might not to hesitate <sup>when</sup> ~~when~~ he considers such  
 a structure in the eye of the eagle; though in

A PAGE FROM "THE ORIGIN OF SPECIES"

This sheet, written by Charles Darwin for the first edition of his epoch-making book, was recently presented to the American Museum by the author's son, Major Leonard Darwin, and has been placed on exhibition in Darwin hall

land birds taken by the expedition. A collection of insects and numerous impressive photographs were other features of interest.

#### A PRECIOUS MANUSCRIPT

A page of the original manuscript of *The Origin of Species* was received by President Henry Fairfield Osborn under date of September 21, 1922, from Major Leonard Darwin, whom the members of the American Museum will remember as the retiring president of the Second International Congress of Eugenics. The page in question, a reproduction of which appears herewith, corresponds with the subject matter on pp. 187-88 of Volume I, Chapter 6, of the original edition of Darwin's epoch-making work. In later editions changes were introduced, altering to a large extent the wording of the upper part of the manuscript page.

This precious gift has a double significance: in the first place as an historic document of the greatest interest, and in the second because of the fact that it has been bestowed by the author's son, who through his own contributions in the field of science has added new laurels to the name of Darwin. The manuscript, as well as the copy of the original edition of *The Origin of Species*, has been mounted and placed on exhibition in Darwin hall, American Museum, beside the bust of the great naturalist.

#### CONSERVATION

A NECESSARY STEP TO SAFEGUARD THE BIRDS OF LOUISIANA.—A tract of land 100,000 acres in extent, which because of its location ought to be a link in the chain of Louisiana wild-life sanctuaries, has recently been acquired by a group of sportsmen, who contemplate converting it into a private hunting reserve, to be known as the Louisiana Gulf Coast Club. Although those promoting the scheme were actuated not merely by the desire for sport but by the hope of developing the possibilities of the area as a wild-life center, the proposal is incongruous, and the only proper destiny of this tract is as an essential element in a larger scheme for the protection of the birds of the Gulf Coast. As envisioned by Mr. T. Gilbert Pearson, president of the National Association of Audubon Societies, the existing bird reservation should be extended so that the territory embraced may stretch without a break from Cote

Blanche Bay westward to the Mermentau River, a belt about eighty miles in length and from ten to fifteen miles in width. As a step toward the fulfillment of this plan the acquisition of the tract owned by the Louisiana Gulf Coast Club is essential, and it is to be hoped that public sentiment may be sufficiently emphatic and public support of Mr. Pearson's efforts sufficiently potent to assure the realization of his plan.

THE STATUS OF THE ANTELOPE.—For years the prong-horned antelope, one of the most distinctive and beautiful of American game animals, has been decreasing in numbers so rapidly that it is threatened with extinction in a comparatively brief period unless some definite steps are taken to insure its perpetuation. The decrease in these animals has been so alarming that many of those interested have expressed a desire that a meeting be called for the purpose of considering the present situation and, if possible, to formulate plans which may result in the conservation of the animals.

Such a meeting was held on December 14, 1923, at the U. S. National Museum in Washington. Representatives of all the principal conservation organizations of the eastern United States, in addition to a representative of the Canadian Government, and representatives from state game commissions in various parts of the country attended the conference, which was sponsored by the Bureau of Biological Survey. It was agreed at the meeting that conservation work in favor of the antelope could best be carried out through existing conservation organizations, aided by the Bureau of Biological Survey, which would act as a clearing house for information on the subject.

The Bureau of Biological Survey during the last two years has been conducting a census of the remaining herds of antelope and has practically all of them located and the approximate number in each herd determined. Dr. E. W. Nelson, chief of the Bureau of Biological Survey, to whom NATURAL HISTORY is indebted for the data contained in this Note, expects in the near future to prepare a bulletin which will set forth the information available at the present time. The bulletin will also give maps of each of the sixteen states in which antelope occur, with the location of the herds, the number in each, and other information, in order to afford a definite basis for conservation work.