

food, and an abundance of mind, it will raise a strong dam, four feet high and ten feet or more wide on the ground. The mud used is dug from the bottom and sides of the beaver-pond. The beaver's feet are comparatively small for so large a swimming animal, but the flattened tail makes up for whatever motive power is lost through the smallness of the feet. The Beaver makes its home in burrows in the banks, or far out into the pond, using for the purpose strong reeds or small sticks and mud. In every case the entrance to the burrow is below water and is entered by diving. If the Beaver can secure sufficient wood of kinds to its liking it will eat little else. Owing to its habit of working by night it is rarely seen.

703—POCKET, OR KANGAROO, RAT—*Dipodomys spectabilis*—Inhabits the United States from Iowa westward and southward, even into the desert regions of Arizona. Has long, silky hair. In each cheek is a hair-lined pocket, which is used for storage of food while the animal is on foraging expeditions, or as receptacles for dirt when it is digging.

704—CANADA PORCUPINE—*Erethizon dorsalis*—Formerly common and generally distributed; now only found in the unsettled parts of northern Ontario. Subsists on the tender bark, twigs and buds of trees. The Porcupine will sometimes strike a heavy blow with its tail, thereby driving its quills deeply into the flesh of an antagonist. It has not, however, as is sometimes supposed, the power to eject its quills. In appearance it is similar to the European Hedgehog, but quite different in habits. A good climber.

705—AMERICAN OTTER—*Lutra canadensis*—Persecuted almost to extinction because of its value as a fur-bearing animal. Owing to proper protection now, however, its numbers are increasing. Formerly inhabited almost all of North America north of Mexico, but now restricted to parts of the southern United States, where its fur is short, rather coarse and "off color," and to the lakes and rivers of the unsettled districts of northern Canada. A carnivorous animal, living upon fish, frogs, crabs, young birds, small mammals, etc. The Otter is very playful, and indulges, for an hour at a time, in the pastime of sliding down hill over a wet and muddy slide, with a water plume at the bottom.

706—POLAR BEAR—*Ursus maritimus*—Inhabits practically the whole of the Arctic Ocean and its numerous islands, though it is not the most northerly of warm-blooded mammals. On the coast of Alaska it will plunge into the Arctic and swim miles from shore, through tossing fields of broken ice. Seldom goes more than a day's journey inland on any shore. Its heavy coat of thick fur gives the Polar Bear an appearance of great size, though in reality it is not much heavier than the Black Bear.

707—RACCOON—*Procyon lotor*—Common and generally distributed, where sufficient bush is left to afford shelter for it, in Canada and the United States. By day usually sleeps high up in some hollow tree, or in the crotch of a limb. By night it prowls about in search of food, or gambols in some marshy place. Feeds upon almost anything; particularly fond of green corn and garden crops in summer.

708—STRIPEO HYENA—*Hyaena striatus*—Found in Africa, India, Persia and Asia Minor. Nocturnal in its habits, preferring by day the gloom of caves, ruins, or burrows. Comes out at sunset to make the night hideous with its unearthly howling, which, when the animal becomes excited, changes into a sort of demoniac laughter. Feeds on any animals it is able to catch on refuse of towns, and even on the bodies of the dead.