

hooked eagle-like claws which must have been ten inches in length. The collections of the Academy are of immense value, and its Scientific Library is very complete, but it greatly lacks room and light. Efforts are now being made to secure a better building. Among other things it possesses an extremely valuable and very complete collection of American skulls, which have afforded materials to Morton, Wilson and Meigs for elaborate investigations on the cranial characters of races, and which are scarcely yet exhausted as sources of information on this very important subject.

Two works are now in progress in Philadelphia, which will be of great value to students of American Palaeontology. One is a monograph on American fossil mammals, by Leidy; the other a monograph on American fossil reptiles, by Cope. One of these is to be published in the Transactions of the Philosophical Society; the other in those of the Academy,—both active Societies and fellow-workers in the cause of science.

Baltimore, though a queenly city, does not stand so high as Philadelphia in scientific work. It has, however, its Academy with a band of zealous naturalists, of whom Tyson, Morris and Dabrymple were old friends, and others I was glad to meet for the first time. The vicinity of the city presents a strange association of old and new rocks, characteristic of that line of junction of the more recent formations of the coast with old metamorphic rocks, on which so many American cities have been placed. In the quarries near the town are gneiss, hornblende schist and granite, which have much of the aspect of Laurentian rocks, and according to Mr. Tyson's sections may be of that age. To a northern visitor they are remarkable for the depth to which they have been decomposed by the weather. Similar rocks in Canada usually present a hard polished surface, as if incapable of decomposition; here there are many feet of "rotten rock" at the surface. The causes may be: 1st, the more rapid waste of felspathic rocks under a warmer climate and a larger rain-fall; 2nd, the want of a tenacious clay covering; 3rd, the absence of the great Northern drift and its ice-striation and polishing. There does not seem to be any evident difference in the composition of the rocks to account for it. Another point of interest is the extremely red colour of the sand formed from the decomposition of the hornblende portions of the rock. The oxide of iron resembles anhydrous peroxide in its colour; and the sand formed from it