

[Reprinted.]

WAR DEPARTMENT,
SURGEON GENERAL'S OFFICE,
WASHINGTON, *March 31, 1877.*

CIRCULAR ORDERS, }
No. 1. }

The attention of the Medical Officers of the Army is particularly invited to the following communication addressed to them by Assistant Surgeon ELLIOTT COUES, U. S. Army.

It is hoped that their assistance and co-operation will be cheerfully given for the reasons stated and in the manner indicated by Dr. COUES.

BY ORDER OF THE SURGEON GENERAL:

C. H. CRANE,
Assistant Surgeon General, U. S. Army.

OFFICE OF U. S. GEOLOGICAL AND GEOGRAPHICAL SURVEY,
Washington, D. C., March 13, 1877.

TO THE MEDICAL OFFICERS OF THE ARMY:

Medical Officers of the Army, and others who may be interested in the matter, are respectfully and earnestly invited to coöperate with the undersigned in the preparation of a work entitled "*History of North American Mammals*," to be published by the Government.

It is now twenty years since the last general work upon the Quadrupeds of this country appeared. The progress of our knowledge during this period renders the demand for a new treatise imperative. It is proposed to make the forthcoming "*History*" a standard scientific treatise, covering the whole ground, and fully exhibiting the present state of our knowledge of the subject. The plan of the work may be briefly indicated; its scope includes—

1. The Classification of North American Mammals according to the latest and most approved views of leading therologists, including diagnoses of the orders, families, genera and species.
2. The most acceptable Nomenclature of each species and variety, with extensive Synonymy.
3. The elaborate technical Description of each species and variety, including much anatomical detail, especially respecting the skull and teeth.
4. The Geographical Distribution of the species—an important matter, concerning which much remains to be learned.
5. The "Life-histories" of the species, or an account, as full and complete as it can be made, of their *habits*. This is also a matter requiring much further study.
6. The Bibliography of the subject.