

Finally, there are two passages of a kind that are rarely seen in a scientific monograph, one reflecting on Prof. Huxley, the other reflecting, I think, upon myself. The former passage is as follows:—"The tyro, fresh from the lecture-room of his physiological teacher, ambitious of soaring into higher regions of biology than were opened to him at the medical school, impressed with the relations of active locomotion to generation of animal heat, may be pardoned for inferring that the amount of work involved in sustaining a Pterodactyle in the air would make it, physiologically, highly probable that it was a hot-blooded animal. But a competent friend, finding him bent on rushing with such show of knowledge into print, would council him to provide himself with a thermometer adapted to the delicate testing of the internal heat of small animals. So provided, if he should chance to beat down a chafer in full flight, the experiment, made with due care and defence of the fingers guiding the instrument, would teach him how fallacious would be the inference that, because an animal can fly, it must, therefore, be hot-blooded," &c. &c.

The other passage, referring seemingly to myself, concludes as follows:—"An argument in favour of Avian affinity from the joint-structures could only be propounded by one not gifted with the judgment needed to deal with problems of this nature." These passages I leave to the consideration of others. Yet I would express my conviction that it did not fall within the province of the Palæontographical Society to publish such matter.

XI.—On four new Species of Birds from China.

By ROBERT SWINHOE, F.Z.S.

*Ephialtes glabripes*, sp. nov.

Similar to *Eph. semitorques* (Temm. & Schleg.) of Japan,

De Blainville introduces a scheme of Vertebrates as having been given in his lectures, in which *Pterodactylia* is given as the third class of Vertebrata, intermediate between Birds and Reptiles. I regret not having been aware of this fact at an earlier period, since the name *Pterodactylia* is in all ways preferable to other names. As, however, it has hitherto remained unknown, I am not prepared to adopt it now, the name *Ornithosauria* being already in use. De Blainville adds this observation:—"Cette classe ne contient encore que le genre Pterodactyle connu seulement à l'état fossile, et que nous pensons n'être ni un mammifère de la famille des chauve-souris, comme Scemmering l'a pensé, ni même un reptile proprement dit, comme G. Cuvier l'a dit, mais un être faisant le passage des oiseaux aux reptiles, et dont le système épidermique n'était peut-être pas squameux."

but differs from it in having the toes always bare, instead of feathered along their upper surfaces as in that species.

Inhabits South China and Formosa.

*Ephialtes Hambroeckii*, sp. nov.

A robust rufous little species, with very long feathery horns, and the bill nearly hidden by the long bristle-ending feathers of the lores. Wing much graduated, the fifth quill the longest; tail comparatively long, somewhat graduated. Tarsi bare just above the junction with the toes; toes covered with minute, oblong, prominent scales, except at the insertion of the claws, they are broad and transverse.

Upper parts, wings, and tail chestnut-brown, blotched and mottled with black on the head and hind neck. On the upper back the feathers are banded with reddish white, forming a distinct halter-mark across the shoulders, the white being succeeded by a border of black blotches. Some of the scapulars have their outer webs pure white; the carpal edge and a patch close to it also white. Under neck reddish white waved with black, with a few close-lying spots of the same forming a patch on each side. Sides of breast deep rufous mottled with black; flanks, vent, and tibiæ light rufous, finely mottled and occasionally streaked with brown; centre of belly pure white. Quills blackish brown on inner webs, chestnut-brown on outer, mottled with black and banded with rufous cream-colour. Tail deep rufous, banded and mottled with black.

Length about 7 inches; wing 5·8, the first primary falling 1·8 short of tip; tail 3·5.

This small owl, which really has closer affinity for the *Ephialtes-lempiji* (Horsf.) group than for *Ephialtes japonicus* (T. & S.), I mistook for the latter (see 'Ibis,' 1865, p. 348, and 1866, p. 307). It has occurred only in Formosa.

I name this species in remembrance of the celebrated Dutch missionary who was murdered by the pirate chief on the conquest of Formosa.

*Cuculus Michieanus*, sp. nov.

A large thick-billed cuckoo, to be at once distinguished by its upper parts being brown glossed on the mantle with purplish pink. Head and hind neck deep bluish grey; under neck lighter. Breast and belly cream-colour, banded with broad blackish-brown bars; a few bars also occur on the lower tail-coverts. Under wings marked with white as ordinary. Tail with a broad black subterminal bar, tipped with cream-colour.

Length about 13·5; wing 8·3; tail 6·75; bill, from forehead ·9, depth at base ·35.