METEOROLOGICAL NOTES.

By MRS. COXEN, M.R.M.S.

I WOULD draw the attention of the members to some of the meteorological features of the past month as deduced from my observations at Bulimba.

The maximum shade readings have been abnormally high; we have readings of 90° on the 25th, 93° on the 28th, 94° on the 13th, 95° on the 14th, and 98° on the 15th; and, as showing the extraordinary character of the month, 1 would mention that only twice, in the same month, during the previous five years that I have been regularly registering air temperature, has the thermometer reached 90° or over—viz. 90° on 6th November, 1885, 91° on 15th November, 1883; partly owing to this the mean shade temperature for the month is higher than the mean for five years previously.

The maximum temperature in sun has also been high-132° on 13th and 136° on 15th having been registered.

Up to the 30th November the rainfall has been very far short, being only about one-third the quantity registered to the same date in 1887.

ON A NEW GENUS OF EXTINCT MAMMALS.

BY C. W. DE VIS, M.A.

A FRAGMENT of a right lower jaw from the bone beds of Chinchilla preserves a nearly perfect cheek-tooth in place, and the adjacent half of the tooth posterior to it. In form and connection these teeth are to the writer unique. They abut against each other, not by a basal line of contact resulting from pressure in the rear as usual, but by means of coadapted processes extending from each end of each tooth, somewhat after the fashion of a vertebral zygapophysis.

ON A NEW GENUS OF EXTINCT MAMMALS.

The crown of the entire tooth is bilophodont, and, as to its central portion, saddle-shaped-its lobes, nearly equal in size, form each a low cusp, rising fore and aft with a gently concave surface to the central transverse line, on which is developed a low rather sharp, level and trenchant crest. The subpyramidal anterior end of the tooth from the crest forward is gradually contracted as it is produced over the space separating the tooth at the base from the one before it-the contraction ceasing, a smooth and regular tract surrounds, as a collar, the end of the process, on which is formed anteriorly a smooth oval surface directed downwards and backwards to be applied to a similar face (reversely directed) on a much shorter projection from the back of the hinder lobe of the antecedent tooth. The beak like process of the broken tooth is still more elongate. On the posterior surface of fracture there is exposed the transversely compressed and closed fang of the front lobe of the broken tooth-anteriorly the fracture passes through the hindmost socket of the hindmost of the lost teeth, and shows that the fang occupying it was also single and compressed.

From these data the following name and characters of the genus may be deduced :--

Synaptodon n.g. joss. Fam. Macropodida-Molars rooted, antibilophodont, distant at base, in contact by facetted projections fore and aft.

The only specific character that can be given is one of dimen-

Synaptodon ævorum—The perfect tooth is 9 mm. in length; 5 mm. in its greatest breadth. The space between the teeth is nearly equal to the length of each fore lobe.

The mammalian origin of the fossil, which shows on its outer side the commencing convexity of the base of the ascending process, requires no demonstration. The facies of its teeth conspires with its geological associations to suggest its marsupial derivation: and if such source be assumed its bilophodont structure compels us to refer it to one of the herbivorous or semiherbivorous families of the order. Lastly, if the longitudinal processes of the teeth may be considered to be as they in all probability are, modifications of basal talons, we cannot be far wrong in associating the extinct genus with the family

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Macropodidæ, in which basal extensions and level crests are almost characteristic features. It is at the same time a decidedly aberrant form, and it is difficult to surmise to what particular mode of life the animal was adapted. Clearly the nature of its food was such as to require two conditions of the teeth—first, the usual one in the family of continuity of the grinding surface to prevent impaction of the food between the teeth ; and secondly, mutual contact of the teeth to such an extent, that the front lobe of each should be supported by the hinder lobe of the next in advance. Whence the necessity for such support and whence the separation of the alveoli eventuating in the seeming production of the crown at each end to secure such support, these are questions which may, perhaps, receive an answer from future discovery.

CHARACTERS OF A NAKED-EYED SCINK APPARENTLY NEW.

BY C. W. DEVIS, M.A.

Miculia orientalis-

Snout short, equal in length to the distance of the ear-orifice from the rictus, a little expanded apically, and over-reaching the mandible; eye completely surrounded by rather elongate granules; nasals meeting in a short suture; fronto-nasals and frontal in a broad suture; frontal longer than the fronto—and interparietals together and in contact with two supraoculars; fronto-parietals paired, interparietal distinct, the three subequal; supraoculars three, of which the mesial is twice the size of the others. Five supraciliaries, the mesial one much enlarged. Prefontals small, remote. Two pairs of nuchals exclusive of the temporals. Three supralabials before the subocular; preanals enlarged; ear orifice minute, distinct; scales of the body in 18 rows, smooth. Limbs tetradactyle, short: digits of pes moderately long and slender, of manus very short. Bronzed

PROGURA GALLINACEA

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