

continental zones, (a) *Upper Sonoran*, and (b) *Lower Sonoran*; and each of these in turn may be subdivided into *arid* and *humid* divisions" (l. c., p. 27). Nothing is said here or elsewhere, so far as I have been able to discover, about 'subregions,' nor is there any definite allusion to the divisions of the 'Sonoran' previously announced, nor any definite clue given as to what extent that classification was intended to be abrogated or modified by the later paper. In fact, the later paper does not perhaps go sufficiently into details to make this distinctly requisite. At page 29 of the 'Address,' however, it is stated that "Lower California is a subdivision of the arid Lower Sonoran Zone"; and on page 30 that Lower California is entitled "to rank as a minor subdivision of the Lower Sonoran Zone." And this is all that I supposed was implied by the classification given in the previous paper (N. Am. Fauna, No. 3, p. 25).

My purpose in referring to and making use of Dr. Merriam's 'subregions' in defining my own areas was two-fold: *first* (as they had been already mapped and defined), to save trouble and space in writing out their boundaries; *second*, in order to make a direct comparison between them and my own, which for the most part merely differed in respect to nomenclature. In connection with the statistics given by me respecting the bird fauna of Lower California, I should have given, or at least made reference to, the much fuller statistics previously published by Dr. Merriam respecting the fauna and flora in general; the omission to do this was purely an oversight (partly due, however, to the necessity for condensation), which I sincerely regret, and I am glad to have Dr. Merriam give them their merited prominence in the present connection.

As Dr. Merriam has shown in his admirable historical summary of the treatment of Lower California by previous writers (Pres. Add., pp. 16, 17), many authors who have referred to it have recognized its low ratio of peculiar forms and its close relationship to the arid interior district designated by Dr. Merriam as 'Arid Lower Sonoran.'—J. A. ALLEN.]

NOTES AND NEWS.

MR. JENNESS RICHARDSON, an Associate Member of the A. O. U., died at Bryn Mawr Park, Yonkers, N. Y., June 24, 1893, at the age of 36 years and 19 days, after a long and painful illness. Although Mr. Richardson has published little, he was an excellent field naturalist and collector, but was especially distinguished as one of the leading taxidermists of the modern school. He was born at Rutland, Vt., in 1857, where he spent his younger days, early developing a strong taste for natural history pursuits, and unusual skill as a taxidermist. He was for some years an assistant of Mr. W. T. Hornaday at the National Museum in Washington. In 1886 he left Washington for New York, and took the position of Chief

Taxidermist at the American Museum of Natural History. He built up and was at the head of the very efficient Department of Taxidermy at this institution until serious ill health compelled his retirement a few months since. The many fine pieces of taxidermy which he has superintended or personally executed, including some sixty groups of birds and mammals, will long remain a monument to his memory. His most noteworthy pieces are the Bison Group (18 x 30 feet), a Woodchuck Group, a Muskrat Group and an Opossum Group among mammals, and of the 54 bird groups perhaps the most striking and attractive are the Robin, Louisiana Waterthrush, Cliff Swallow, Mottled Owl, Ruffed Grouse, Florida Blue Heron, Wood Duck (see *Auk*, Vol. X, pl. ii), the Labrador Duck and the Laughing Gull. His groups were not only original and artistic in design, but were executed with the utmost care as to details, and mark an era in the history of taxidermy and in museum exhibits, at least for America, being anticipated in point of time only by the exhibits at the South Kensington Museum in England. They are probably unexcelled in realistic effect.

Mr. Richardson was a man of great energy, of high ambition, and amiable traits of character, and his death will prove not only a severe loss to his many friends, but to the art to which he was so enthusiastically devoted.

AS ANNOUNCED in the last number of 'The Auk', the unveiling of the monument to the naturalist John James Audubon occurred on the afternoon of April 20, with appropriate addresses by Prof. Thomas Egleston, in behalf of the New York Academy of Sciences and the Rev. Dr. Morgan Dix, in behalf of the Trinity Cemetery Corporation. In the evening at a commemorative meeting, held in the lecture hall of the American Museum of Natural History, an address on the life and scientific work of Audubon was delivered before a large audience by Mr. D. G. Elliot. A detailed account of the proceedings, together with a general history of the enterprise, will be shortly published in the 'Transactions' of the New York Academy of Sciences, including the addresses in full.

THE FIRST PART of Prof. Alfred Newton's 'Dictionary of Birds,' long since announced as in preparation, has just appeared, forming an octavo volume of over 300 pages, with numerous illustrations. It is based upon the articles contributed by him to the ninth edition of the 'Encyclopædia Britannica,' but contains besides a large number of others by himself and Dr. Hans Gadow, together with contributions by Mr. R. Lydekker, Professor Roy and Dr. Shufeldt. The work is to consist of four parts, and when completed will form a demy 8vo volume of about 1000 pages, copiously illustrated. The Publishers, Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, promise Part II in October.

MR. FRANK M. CHAPMAN, of the American Museum of Natural History, New York City, recently returned from his trip to the Island of Trinidad, bringing with him a large collection of birds and mammals, his trip having proved eminently successful and satisfactory. The scientific results will soon be published in the 'Bulletin' of the Museum.