

XV. "Description of a Newly-excluded Young of the *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*." By Sir RICHARD OWEN, K.C.B., F.R.S., &c. Received May 20, 1887.

(Abstract.)

Of this interesting and long-hoped-for discovery the author was informed by his friend and correspondent, the Baron von Mueller, F.R.S., of the Botanical Gardens, Melbourne, and shortly received the specimen from the Baron: also, further details from Mr. Le Souef, of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society's Office, Melbourne; and from the Rev. Pastor Hagenauer, Superintendent of the Missionary Station in Gipps-Land, S.E. Victoria, to whose influence with the natives science is indebted for the acquisition, as I am to Baron von Mueller for the reception, of the embryo well preserved in alcohol. The specimen is nude, an inch in length, the nostrils well opened, and between them the fleshy conical support of the horny sheath, which has been shed and by which the chorion had been torn open at birth. The mouth is a transverse slit, not produced as a beak, bounded by flexible lips, and sufficiently open to receive nutriment afforded by the group of pores excluding the secretion of the mammary gland of the pouch. The fore limbs, chiefly represented by the paws and pentadactyle, with claws sufficiently developed for adhering to the part of the pouch on which the excretory pores open. The hind limbs are less developed, have the five digits feebly indicated and clawless. A short conical-pointed tail projects between them. The elongate, flattened, natatory tail of the adult is a later development. There is no trace of navel. The skin of the trunk is uniformly smooth and nude.

If this embryo should be a male, the spur of the femoral gland is a defensive organ of later growth.

The author refrains from dissection in hopes of receiving another specimen; and, after a detailed description of the external characters of the unique specimen, refers to his paper "On the Uterine Ovum of the *Ornithorhynchus*" in the volume of the 'Philosophical Transactions' for 1834, and on the "Mammary Glands" in the volume for 1832.