

If the calculations had been conducted by rigorous methods, the two columns would have agreed nearly with one another.

I may mention that I have copies of a table of $(\gamma - \sigma)t$ up to 90 days (see p. 304 of the paper here referred to) which I shall be glad to give to any one actually engaged in the reduction of H. and L.W. observations.

II. "On some new Reptiles from the Elgin Sandstone." By
E. T. NEWTON, F.G.S. Communicated by Sir ARCHIBALD
GEIKIE, F.R.S. Received November 28, 1892.

(Abstract.)

During the last few years a number of Reptilian remains have been obtained from the Elgin Sandstone at Cuttie's Hillock, near Elgin, which are now in the possession of the Elgin Museum and of the Geological Survey. These specimens represent at least eight distinct skeletons, seven of which undoubtedly belong to the Dicynodontia, and one is a singular horned Reptile, new to science. All the remains yet found in this quarry are in the condition of hollow moulds, the bones themselves having entirely disappeared. In order, therefore, to render the specimens available for study, it was necessary, in the first place, so to display and preserve these cavities that casts might be taken which would reproduce the form of the original bones. Gutta-percha was found to be the most suitable material for taking these impressions; and in some instances, especially in the case of the skulls, the casts had to be made in several parts and afterwards joined together.

The first specimen described is named *Gordonia Traquairi*; it is the one noticed by Dr. Traquair in 1885, and referred to the Dicynodontia; besides the skull, it includes fragmentary portions of other parts of the skeleton, and is contained in a block of sandstone which has been split open so as to divide the skull almost vertically and longitudinally. The two halves have been so developed that casts made from them exhibit the left side and upper surface, as well as the main parts of the palate and lower jaw. In general appearance this skull resembles those of *Dicynodon* and *Oudenodon*. The nasal openings are double and directed laterally; the orbits are large and look somewhat forwards and upwards. The supra-temporal fossa is large, and bounded above by the prominent parieto-squamosal crest, and below by the wide supra-temporal bar, which extends downwards posteriorly to form the long pedicle for the articulation of the lower jaw. There is no lower temporal bar. The maxilla is directed downwards and forwards to end in a small tusk. Seen from above, the skull is narrow in the inter-orbital and nasal regions, but wide posteriorly across the temporal bars, although the brain-case itself is very

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narrow. There is a large pineal fossa in the middle of a spindle-shaped area, which area is formed by a pair of parietals posteriorly and a single intercalary bone anteriorly.

The palate is continuous with the base of the skull; the pterygoids on each side send off a distinct process to the quadrate region. Towards the front the median part of the united pterygoids arches upwards, and the outer sides descend, forming a deep groove; from the evidence of other specimens it is clear that the palatines, extending inwards, converted this groove into a tube, and thus formed the posterior nares. The ramus of the lower jaw is deep, with a large lateral vacuity, and the two rami are completely united at the symphysis. The back of this skull is not seen, but two other specimens, referable to this same genus, show that the occiput had two post-temporal fossæ on each side.

This specimen is distinguished from *Dicynodon* by the presence of two post-temporal fossæ on each side of the occiput, by the small size of the maxillary tusk; and probably by the elongated spindle-shaped area enclosing the pineal fossa, and also by the slight ossification of the vertebral centra.

A second and much smaller specimen, provisionally referred to *G. Traquairi*, has, besides the skull, a fore-limb well preserved. The humerus of this shows the usual Anomodont expansion of its extremities; its large deltoid crest is angular, and set obliquely to the distal end.

Three other species are referred to the same genus, namely:—

Gordonia Huxleyana, which is distinguished from *G. Traquairi* by its proportionately wider and more depressed skull, and by the absence of the concavity between the orbits which is present in the latter species. The humerus has the distal extremity oblique to the deltoid crest, which was probably rounded and not angular.

G. Duffiana has the skull even wider than in *G. Huxleyana*, and the portion of a humerus found with this skeleton has the two extremities set nearly at right angles to each other.

G. Juddiana has an elongated skull resembling that of *G. Traquairi*, but the parietal crests are less developed, the bones of the nasal region are much thickened and overlap the nasal apertures, the small tusk is placed a little further back and points more directly downwards, and the pineal fossa is smaller than in either of the other species.

A second generic form is named *Geikia Elginensis*. This is a skull nearly allied to *Ptychognathus*, Owen, but is distinguished by its shorter muzzle and the entire absence of teeth; the upper part of the skull, between the orbits, is also peculiar, forming a deep valley open anteriorly, with a ridge on each side, the anterior end of which forms a large prominence above and in front of the orbit. The occiput has

only one (the lower) post-temporal fossa open on each side. The maxilla is produced into a tooth-like prominence, which occupies a similar position to the tusks of *Gordonia*; but the bone is too thin to have supported a tooth, and in all probability it was covered by a horny beak. The lower jaw has a strong symphysis, a distinct lateral vacuity, and the oral margin, at the front of each ramus, bears a rugose prominence.

Elginia mirabilis is the name proposed for the skull of a Reptile, which, on account of the extreme development of horns and spines, reminds one of the living Lizards *Moloch* and *Phrynosoma*. The exterior of this skull is covered in by bony plates, the only apertures being the pair of nostrils, the orbits, and the pineal fossa. The surfaces of the bones are deeply pitted, as in Crocodiles and Labyrinthodonts. The horns and spines, which vary from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to nearly 3 in. in length, are found upon nearly every bone of the exterior. The development of the epiotics and the arrangement of the external bones resemble more the Labyrinthodont than the Reptilian type of structure, while the palate, on the other hand, conforms more nearly to the Lacertilian type, and, with the exception that the pterygoids are united in front of the pterygoid vacuity, agrees with the palate of *Iguana* and *Sphenodon*. There are four longitudinal ridges along the palate, some of which seem to have carried teeth. The oral margin was armed with a pleurodont dentition, there being on each side about twelve teeth with spatulate crowns, laterally compressed and serrated. With the exception of the smaller number of the teeth, we have here, on a large scale, a repetition of the dentition of *Iguana*. This peculiar skull seems to show affinities with both Labyrinthodonts and Lacertilians, and is unlike any living or fossil form; its nearest, though distant, ally apparently being the *Pareiasaurus* from the Karoo Beds of South Africa.

III. "The Electromotive Properties of the Skin of the Common Eel." By E. WAYMOUTH REID, Professor of Physiology in University College, Dundee. Communicated by Professor M. FOSTER, Sec.R.S. Received November 19, 1892.

(Abstract.)

1. The assumption that the E.M.F. of the current of rest of the skin of the Fish is entirely due to mucin-metamorphosis, and that it is not possible to attribute it to the presence of glandular elements is negatived, in the case of the Eel, by the absence of any such mucinous change in the superficial epidermic cells and by the presence of abundance of secretory cells throughout the structure.