

plete, but the preoperculum slightly connected with or discrete from the suspensorium; the suborbitals suppressed; the jaw bones complete and little aberrant; the palatines, entopterygoids, and ectopterygoids well developed; the anterior vertebræ separate, and the ventrals abdominal.—THEO. GILL.

Note on Carettochelys, Ramsay.—Of this very remarkable Chelonian, which was found in Fly River, New Guinea, only a single specimen is known. It was described by Ramsay, in 1886, in the Proc. Linn. Soc., New South Wales, and compared with *Emyda*, with the remark that it appeared to be a link between the river, and the sea-turtles. Mr. Boulenger has placed it among the Pleurodira, in a new family, Carettochelydæ.

The question is, Is it really a Pleurodiran? It is true it belongs to the Papuasian region, in which, so far, only Pleurodira have been found. There are some characters, however, not seen in the Pleurodira, but in another group of Chelonians consisting of the families Cinosternidæ, Staurotypidæ, and Pseudotrionychidæ. It is only in this group that we find 21 peripheralia (marginal bones) as in *Carettochelys*; the neural bones are also reduced, and the dermal shields have disappeared entirely in *Pseudotrionyx*; to the latter character, however, I attach little value, as it may occur in any family.

It seems to me that the systematic position of *Carettochelys* is far from being clear. How easily could the whole question be settled! Mr. Ramsay would do a great service to science if he would undertake to have the cervicals and the skull extracted, or the cervicals alone, if he fears for the skull. This could be done without injuring the specimen, and the structure of these parts would show at once the affinities of this peculiar genus.

It is a pity that in some museums of natural history the anatomical knife is still an instrument without use. Rare or unique specimens are not allowed "to show the inside," or, in other words, to show what they really are. They are simply placed in alcohol or stuffed, to be presented to a public which has no understanding of them. There are exceptions, I am glad to say. One of these is seen in *Chlamydosclache*, of a single specimen which came to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy, Cambridge, Mass., and was "sacrificed" to the anatomical knife. The result is known to every zoölogist.—G. BAUR.

Teeth of Monotremes.—Mr. Oldfield Thomas, (*Proc. Roy. Socy.*, No. 280) has had an opportunity to study the teeth of *Ornithorhynchus*, and comes to conclusions which essentially modify those of Poul-