

even the scale-like markings which precede the feathers have been clearly revealed on portions of the body, thus furnishing another link in the evidence) the gap has been to some extent bridged. To prove his thesis the author found it "necessary to ascertain the mode by which the perennial moult of the individuals of a species of birds is made up, from the earliest to the last stages of renewal; and, further, to what extent each feather participates in this annual process during the period of complete feather-change." To carry out this investigation the specimens observed were procured at intervals of a week, and whilst in a comparatively fresh state, both wings of each specimen were examined and measured, the stages of feather development being most carefully noted. What may be called the processional history of a bird's plumage is recorded, from "downy investment" to its mature stage, even the order in which feathers are cast having been observed. Moult problems are very fully entered into, and by means of copious notes, plates, and diagrams much is done towards their elucidation. *Re* change of plumage without moult, Mr. Degen writes, in a letter to Mr. A. J. Campbell:—"Feathers are funny bits of tissue, so that after a year they are not worth even sending to the dyer's. . . . Colour-change without moult, indeed! The disciples of the fraud are fast vanishing, both in Europe and America. Does not replacement of pigment suggest vitality of an organ, and, as a natural consequence, vascularity? And the latter, again, how can it exist without the accompaniment of nerves? A bird will not even wince if you cut one of its feathers. . . . Of course, if you pull it out the effect is different, the old stump sitting tightly on the newly-formed papilla beneath."

It will be recollected the last time we referred to Mr. Degen's work was in connection with a projected trip with Colonel Harrington to Abyssinia.\* Mr. Degen has distinguished himself as a careful collector, bringing back five new animals, including *Otomys degeni*, which have been described by Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S.† Mr. Degen's principal haul, however, was 350 specimens of fish from Lake Tsana. Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., who examined the fish, described no less than 21 new species, including *Barbus degeni*.‡ Two new lizards were also collected, which were also described by Mr. Boulenger, and Mr. Degen received a well-merited third dedication in *Latastia degeni*.§

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A CORRECTION.—"Notes on a Collection of Bird-skins from the Fitzroy River, North-Western Australia" (Hall—Rogers). The notes of No. 122 (page 42) refer to *Scythrops novæ-hollandiæ* (Channelbill), instead of *Eudynamis cyanocephala* (Koel).

\* *Emu*, vol. i., p. 155.

† *Proc. Zool. Soc. Lond.*, vol. ii., part 2, p. 308 (1902).

‡ *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 7th ser., vol. x., p. 421 (1902).

§ *Ann. Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 7th ser., vol. xi., p. 54 (1903).