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**CATALOGUES**

of NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS now on hand and for sale.

These Catalogues are not mere price lists, but contain much interesting matter, and as they are intended to be free to our clients, the money paid for them will be credited on the first order. To teachers expressing an intent soon to purchase specimens, they will be sent gratis.

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PROF. HENRY A. WARD,  
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

Letters concerning Minerals, Rocks and Fossils, Address to WARD & HOWELL.

**NEW SKIN CATALOGUE.**

We have lately issued a new *Catalogue of Skins and Mounted Specimens*, including Mammals, Birds, Reptiles and Fishes. This is much fuller than our former catalogue, and gives the results of some ten years of careful and assiduous collecting from all parts of the world. We can offer to our clients a choice of representative forms throughout the entire range of vertebrate animals, giving opportunities for selecting systematic series such as have never before been possible in this country. The catalogue also offers great advantages for the formation of faunal collections, the New Zealand, Australian and Eastern Asiatic fauna especially being very fully represented.

The skins have largely been prepared by our own collectors, or handled over at the Establishment. The mounted specimens are prepared with great care, and a strict adherence to nature. Price of catalogue, 30 cents.

**THE POLYGLOTWOGGLE.**

It has long been my pleasure to scan  
The progressions of life on the earth;  
And now I will tell, if I possibly can,  
In the plainest of English, the story how man  
From the Polyglotwoggle had birth.

For I am a scientist true,  
With learning’s most classical lingo.  
When I found an old tooth, which to science was new,  
I restored the whole beast, hoof and horn and tail too,  
And I called it the Hip-pip-o-jingo;

Which means—but no matter. It’s Greek.  
Thus I won the Academy roses.  
And the Royal Society asked me to seek  
A few fossil remains which would aid me to speak  
On the Genesis theme against Moses.

So I sought, and I found a huge fossil,  
In the Bad lands of Western Dakota,  
With a tail like a comet, a head most colossal,  
And forty-two tongues sticking fast to its jaw still;  
So I called it, in Greek, Polyglota;

Which means many-tongued; and moreover,  
Since its eye had the form of a goggle,  
While its polliwog tail proved the beast a sea-rover,  
In order both characteristics to cover,  
I called it the Polyglotwoggle.

When the sea rolled its fathomless billows  
Across the broad plains of Nebraska;  
When around the North Pole grew bananas and  
willows,  
And mastodons fought with the great armadillos  
For the pineapples grown in Alaska;

When the Glyptodon came to the ocean,  
The Plesiosaurus to ogle,  
But could find not a word to express its emotion—  
Then there came a fantastic, most singular notion  
To the brain of the Polyglotwoggle.

“Every tongue I will study,” it said,  
“From the ape’s to the great alligator’s;  
For have I not forty-two tongues in my head?  
They laugh at me now, but they’ll call me, instead,  
The most learn’d of all beastly translators.”

All its heart in the effort it threw  
Till its learning became the world’s wonder;  
But alas! when it tried to converse with the gnu,  
And puckered its lips to pronounce the French u,  
Its tail split completely assunder!

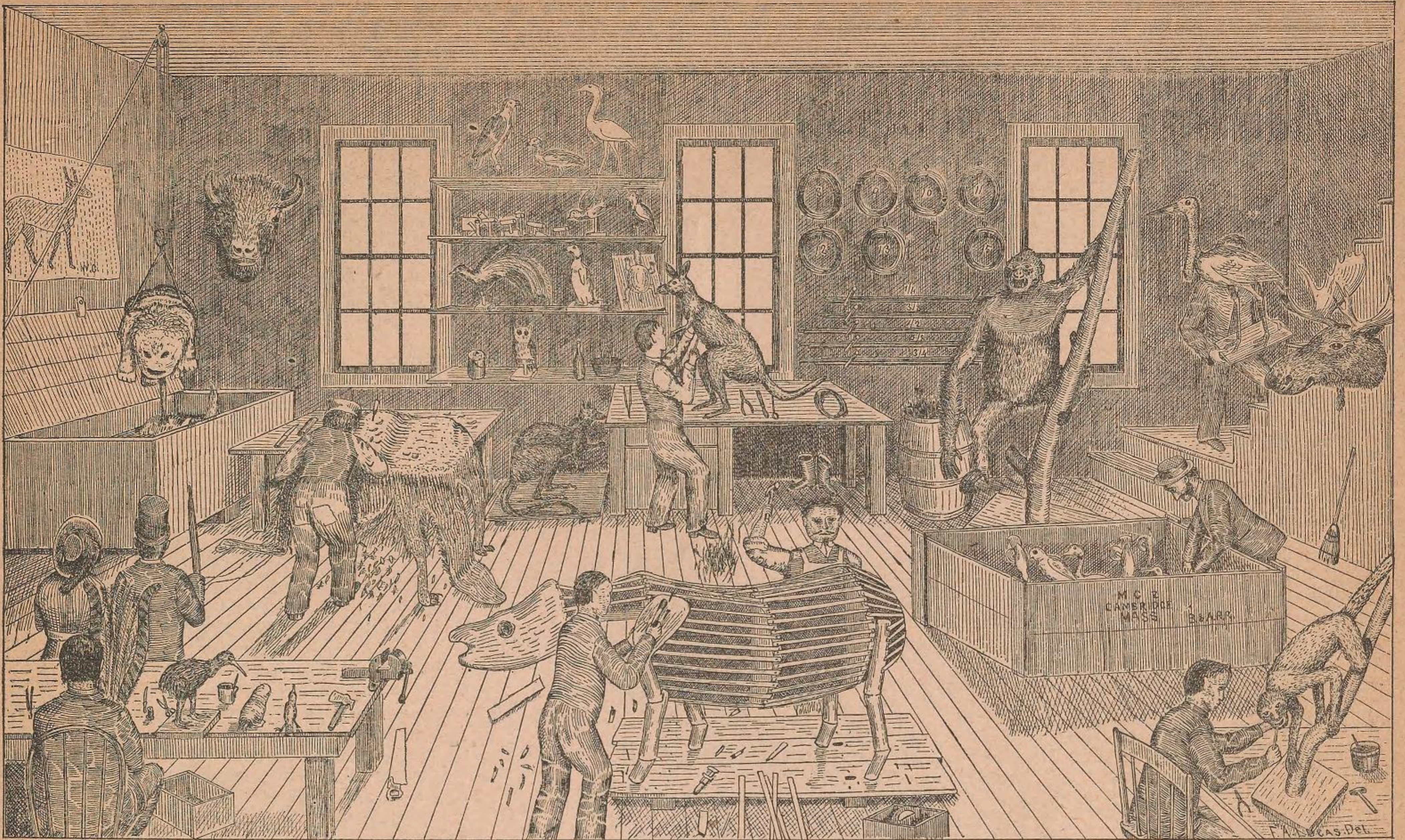
Then on the two pieces it rose,  
And it cried, “I’ll succeed if I can!”  
While the tips of its tail were turned up for its toes,  
And it walked! The first biped! so synthesis shows,  
And the Polyglotwoggle was Man?

—W. W. Fink, in N. Y. Independent.

**TAXIDERMISTS WANTED.**

We are needing two more taxidermists, men who are thoroughly trained in the profession, and able to do first class work. To such we can offer a permanent position, with good pay and pleasant surroundings. Please apply promptly, in person or by letter. State what pieces you have worked upon, whether mammals and birds only, or also reptiles and fishes.

We want only first class workmen who have had much experience.



Our Taxidermists at Work.

### TAXIDERMY AT HOME.

The time was, and that not so very long ago, that in order to obtain fine mounted animal specimens for an American museum it was necessary to import either the specimens from Europe, or a European taxidermist to mount them on this side of the water. In those days the work done in this country was crude and imperfect, almost without exception. The extensive laboratory of Verreaux Brothers in the Place Royale, Paris, produced the most perfectly finished work of that time. England and Germany have each developed a few genuine artists in taxidermic work, and during the last ten years considerable careful attention has been paid to this important branch in Italy at the museums of Turin and Florence.

Our American museums are almost wholly to blame for the fact that until the last few years the American taxidermist has had no standing even in his own country. While many curators were indifferent to good work, others were unwilling to pay for it, and the worker was left without anything to stimulate his efforts or awaken his enthusiasm. It seemed to be taken for granted that the American taxidermist was not to be trusted either for mechanical skill or scientific knowledge.

Even so recently as 1875 the director of one of our largest museums considered it necessary to send over to Germany a series of several hundred American bird skins, in order to have them mounted "in the highest style of the art." for the Centennial exhibition. The skins were mounted and sent back, but upon their return the specimens were condemned as unfit for exhibition, and never displayed.

Ten years ago, when the taxidermic department was organized in Ward's Natural Science Establishment, and museum work undertaken on a large scale, it was impossible to engage in this country a single taxidermist who could compete successfully with his trained European rivals. It therefore became necessary to engage European *preparateurs* to come to Rochester, and besides doing the taxidermic work of the estab-

lishment, to initiate a few promising amateurs into the subtle mysteries of the art.

M. Jules F. D. Bailey came to us after fifteen years experience in the Verreaux establishment, and as both taxidermist and osteologist he possessed a high degree of skill and a very extensive knowledge of methods. M. Isidore Prevotel, a man of artistic talent as a modeler, sculptor and taxidermist combined, also came to us direct from Paris. Herr John Martens was engaged in Hamburg, and proved himself a man of rare talent in his special line—the mounting of large mammals.

With such men as the above for a nucleus, a few enthusiastic and promising young amateurs were added to the force from time to time, and carefully instructed in methods. In 1878 Mr. F. S. Webster, of Troy, New York, came, and brought with him such a degree of both artistic and mechanical skill in mounting birds, and such a perfect knowledge of their forms and habits, that no European taxidermist has ever been able to add one iota to his professional ability. Mr. Webster is wholly an American taxidermist, with a true genius for bird work, and as such we are justly proud of him.

With the exception of the four professionals named above, all the remainder of the fifteen taxidermists we have employed from time to time have been amateurs who have grown up at the establishment, and graduated into the ranks with the professionals. The most promising of the latter class now enjoys the distinction of being chief taxidermist of the U. S. National Museum at Washington. Vacant places are eagerly filled, and at no time have we ever had fewer than five or six men engaged in this department alone.

The circumstances surrounding our taxidermists have been such that they have every incentive toward the production of fine work. In the first place, each worker is surrounded by half a score of keen-eyed critics, each one of whom is secretly sure that he knows more about the form of an animal than the one who is mounting it. These critics (and hypercritics!) are not only willing, but exceedingly anxious to

discover a fault on a specimen, and every error, no matter how insignificant, is pointed out with the most charming frankness to the gaze of an admiring (!) crowd. Solitary taxidermists often suffer from lack of criticism, but no member of our force has ever yet entered a complaint on that score.

The keenest rivalry exists between both our professionals and amateurs, and whoever ventures to grow careless or put any but his best efforts into his work, soon finds his reputation crumbling beneath him. The amateur has a reputation to gain, the professional has a reputation to sustain, and the survival of the fittest is the ruling law.

Every member of the rising generation of *Preparateurs* who has ever had a place in the skilled establishment has reason to rejoice that the professionals of our force have always been willing to teach. Seemingly Mr. Bailey's greatest pleasure is in teaching the young idea how to "mount," and even the most blundering amateur who goes to him for help and advice in his work always meets a cordial reception and generous assistance. No man could be more generous and liberal in this direction than Mr. Bailey. Messrs. Prevotel and Martens have also instructed a goodly number of beginners. Mr. Webster also has been very patient in teaching aspiring young taxidermists, and his efforts have produced several good operators.

There are practically no secret methods employed in our laboratory, and instead of the gnawing envy and jealousy sometimes seen between rival taxidermists, our artists are always ready and willing to assist each other with information or advice. Every man feels a personal interest in all the work which is sent out, and a poor specimen is a cause for general regret. The men take pride in sustaining the reputation of the establishment, and study constantly to increase it.

Aside from the advantages arising from such a keen but kindly rivalry, the bringing together under one roof of studious and observing taxidermists from France, Germany, Belgium, New York, Iowa, Massachusetts and elsewhere, cre-

"from Greenland's icy mountains" or "India's coral strand," from the forests of Maine or of Borneo, the chances are that some one of the taxidermists has seen the same species alive somewhere, and has carefully observed its form and habits. And he who has seen is always glad to inform the one who has not. In a multitude of councillors there is safety, and with such an intelligent force mistakes are of rare occurrence.

Ever since the movement which resulted in the Society of American Taxidermists, early in 1880, which, very naturally, originated in our establishment, and was organized by our corps, a genuine enthusiasm has prevailed on the subject of fine taxidermy. Although the society has cost us a great deal by interrupting regular work during preparations for the exhibitions, it has accomplished much good by stimulating and even inspiring the efforts of our taxidermists, and in bringing out their highest skill. The work which now leaves their hands is without doubt greatly better and finer than such as they were satisfied with up to the organization of the society.

Nothing short of the fair and friendly competition afforded by the society's exhibitions could ever so effectually have aroused the enthusiasm of the taxidermists of this country, and kept it at the highest pitch. Of a certainty the result will be a great gain to our American museums.

The present state of our taxidermic department is the result of long study and experiments looking toward the production of work which shall be practically perfect. Having brought together a corps of workmen of acknowledged ability in all the various branches of taxidermic work, we have endeavored to make all their surroundings conducive to the fullest exercise of their powers.

Certain things are absolutely necessary to the production of fine work in a reasonable time, and without too much of a strain upon the eyes and nerves of the operator. The essentials are a dry work room, plenty of space for every worker, *good light*, convenient tables, plenty of materials close at hand, and ample facilities for the proper reception and safe keeping of specimens. It is with a feeling akin to pride that we present herewith an accurate exterior view of our Taxidermist's room, on the ground floor of the "Large Museum."

Although the apartment is neither grand in proportions nor elegant in finish, we believe it may still be fairly taken as a model of its kind. The sketch represents an actual scene, and happily combines the representation of work in several different stages.

The room itself is thirty-six feet square, with a floor two feet above the ground and a ceiling eleven and a half feet high. An abundance of light streams in from large windows on three sides of the room. At the rear are wide double doors, nine and one-half feet high, and another pair of doors at the opposite side are still wider, and ten and one-half feet high. In this room the Cambridge elephant, nine and one-half feet, was mounted and rolled through the front door on a pedestal ten inches high. Even long-legged Jumbo could be "stuffed" in that room and easily taken out again.

To most persons a visit to the work shop of a live, working taxidermist is an event full of wonders, exclamations, interjections and ridiculous questions, an event never to be forgotten. But what must it be to be ushered into an airy, well lighted room, where five or six skilled taxidermists are working as busy as bees, upon bird and mammal, reptile or fish, one can scarcely tell what except upon close inspection, and not always even then. Even the wisest men are ignorant in the presence of a shapeless, half-stuffed animal, unless it be of a species so familiar as to be incapable of disguise.

Most people are ready at a moment's notice to invade the inner sanctum of a taxidermist, and ply him with questions until he cries for quarter. It is a natural and healthy curiosity which should be gratified. Will the readers of the BULLETIN take a peep at our "stuffers" in spite of the odors of freshly tanned skins and drying specimens, and the presence of a good deal of litter, to be swept up clean when the day closes? The shop is for *business*, you know, and the boys

"hew to the line," while the "chips fall where they may." If you can put up with the surroundings and keep "hands off the specimens," come with me.

And this is what we find as we look through the middle window on the east, and survey the whole room at a glance: Ranged around the room, so as to give good elbow room, are four tables strewn with the paraphernalia of the taxidermist who sits or stands before it at work. There is another table in a corner, out of sight, but the stout and jolly-looking man who usually presides at it, he with the mustache and imperial of Napoleon III, now stands in the center of the foreground hammering and perspiring over a large rhinoceros manikin. A manikin is a framework of wood supported by heavy iron rods, and with straw bound down upon it until when finished it has the form of the animal whose skin is then stretched over it and sewed up. An assistant is also at work on the manikin, but neither the mistakes he makes nor the jawing they cause show in the picture.

In the right foreground sits a young man putting the last touches upon a monkey. He looks like a modest young amateur, and his monkey shows it, but his work is satisfactory nevertheless.

In the left foreground the bird taxidermist is at work on a Lyre bird, from far-off Australia, and when finished no living Lyre bird will be more life-like in form than this.

We cannot see the shelves full of mounted birds, big and little, still in their winding threads, to the left of the "bird stuffer," but they are there all the same. The ladies always go into ecstasies over the exquisite birds of paradise, the dainty but gorgeous hummers and the bright colored parrots, while the men admire the game birds.

To the right and next to the door the foreman is packing a box of mounted birds for shipment. We can see by the solemnity of his visage that he is thinking of what he will catch if one of those birds should get loose and tumble about in the box.

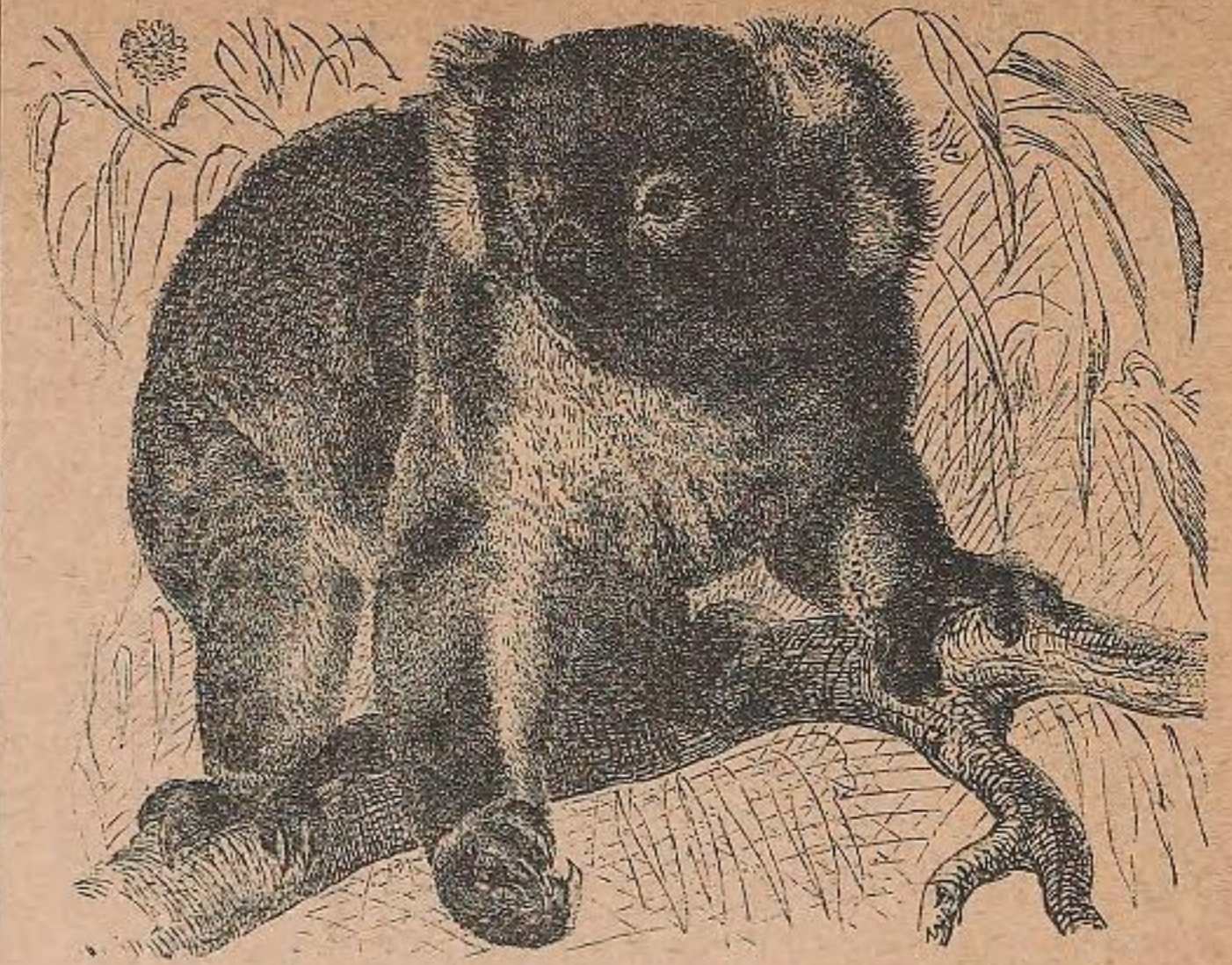
In the background at the extreme left, is the tank in which skins to be mounted are soaked in a bath of salt and alum dissolved in water, to soften dry skins and to tan fresh ones. A curious looking skin is suspended over the tank, dripping, to be taken in hand by somebody. Next to the tank the "latest arrival" at the establishment is paring down a skin and making it ready to be mounted, as soon as the spruce looking young gentleman on his right shall have completed his kangaroo.

The fine large gorilla who clings to a tree in the right of the background has just been finished for the American Museum at New York, but it must be kept several weeks to dry thoroughly before it can be shipped. This is the second adult male gorilla mounted here within the last eight months. Up the stairs, whither an assistant is carrying an adjutant, is the museum proper, in part at least, while one large room is filled full of beautifully mounted skeletons properly arranged and labelled, and another and larger room, with a gallery on three sides, is filled with stuffed animals—mammals, birds, reptiles and fishes.

Every month a dozen or twenty large boxes are packed full of newly mounted specimens in this room, and shipped east, west or south, to some zoological museum. We have reason to believe our work stands high in the estimation of the public, and we are also assured that never before have our birds and mammals enjoyed the reputation for accuracy of form and fineness of finish which they have attained during the last two years. So far as human effort can accomplish it, we are resolved that at no very distant day the taxidermic work of our establishment shall approach perfection more nearly than anything ever seen up to this time.

#### ONE OF THE TAXIDERMISTS.

N. B. Since the above was written we have added two new men to the force of our taxidermists, and are looking about for still one or two more *good* men with some experience in mounting either Mammals or Birds—or both. We also want a man who excels in mounting Fish, of which we have a large stock ready to be treated.



### THE MONKEY BEAR OF AUSTRALIA.

(Phascolarctos cinereus; Koala.)

A SNAP SHOT BY A BUSHMAN.

Void of wit and void of fear,  
Half a monkey, half a bear,  
Wholly free from thought or care  
There he sits all through the year.  
—Anonymous.

#### THE MONKEY BEAR.

Perched in the forks of a gum tree high,  
Which grew to a stature rare  
Beneath the bright beams of Australia's sky  
And breath of its balmy air,  
In summer, in winter, in heat and in cold,  
There may you Australia's "monkey" behold.  
There he braves alike the whispering breeze  
That comes from a summer's cloud,  
And the tempest's shock when the stout forest trees  
Bend low at its advent loud;  
For he knows that his hold is certain and fast,  
And will bide the brunt of the mightiest blast.  
Taking his ease in that grand old tree,  
But little he recks or cares  
For aught that befalleth on land or on sea,  
Or the tide of men's affairs;  
For church, for army, for physis, for law,  
He cares just as much as did "Cowper's Jackdaw."  
Solid and stolid this monkey bear  
Looks down on the earth below,  
And would not give a tuft of his woolly hair  
For all that the world can show.  
For nothing he cares and for nothing he grieves  
But a daily supply of young, fresh "gum" leaves.  
With his nose embraced by either arm,  
In his own peculiar way,  
Designing no ill and all heedless of harm,  
He slumbers the live long day;  
Until the sharp stings of a keen appetite  
Wake him up in the gloaming of oncoming night.  
Now sitting erect he peers around  
To see if the coast be clear;  
Then slowly and surely descends to the ground  
Stern first, like a true bred bear;  
And while seeking fresh fields and pasturage new,  
We will for the nonce bid his bearship, adieu.

Our readers will recognize in the above lively description of *The Monkey Bear*, the same facile pen which has already entertained us with life pictures of the Black Swan and the Lyre Bird, which abound around his Australian home.

In some boxes lately received from him we find a dozen each of splendid skins and skeletons of this strangely grotesque yet pretty beast whose picture is at the head of this column.

Although like other marsupials the Koala is provided with a pouch, the young leaves that at an early age and settles firmly on its mothers back between the shoulders, clinging tightly to the fur and peering to right and to left with a wondering and whimsical look. We have in our series quite a number of these young Koalas which we mount in the position mentioned. The two, mother and child, form an interesting pair.

Its long woolly fur, cropping out in long tufts on its ears, give it a peculiarly cosy, comfortable look, which is also innocent and friendly.

The adult is about two feet long and weighs forty or fifty lbs: Price of adult skin with skull and leg-bones, suitable for mounting, \$8, to \$12.