

MISCELLANEOUS.

Preliminary Notice of some Extinct Tortoises from the Islands of Rodriguez and Mauritius. By Dr. ALBERT GÜNTHER, F.R.S.

SOME time ago M. L. Bouton, of Port Louis, sent me for examination some Chelonian remains from Rodriguez and the Mauritius, and more especially, among those from the latter island, a nearly complete carapace. This collection has been supplemented by a series of bones in the Geological Department of the British Museum, which were discovered at the same time and at the same place with the skeleton of *Didus ineptus*.

As some time must elapse before the plates illustrating my description can be finished, I think it advisable to indicate the main results of my examination.

All these tortoises belong to a group of gigantic land-tortoises, characterized by a flat skull (type *Testudo platyceps* of Gray), and by a dilated (not vertically compressed) symphysial bridge between the foramina obturatoria.

The Rodriguez species is distinguished by very slender vertebræ and leg-bones, and by having the neural arch of the sixth cervical vertebra perforated by a pair of large foramina. This species I have named *T. rodericensis*.

Among the remains from the Mauritius two species can be readily distinguished:—

One appears to have been the more common; it has three serrated dental ridges along the lower jaw, a peculiarity hitherto unknown among recent land-tortoises: for this species I propose the name *Testudo triserrata*.

The other is more sparingly represented, and distinguished by various modifications in the form of the bones of all the limbs. I distinguish it by the name *Testudo inepta*.

On the Dorsal Shield of Tolypeutes. By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

In the 'Catalogue of Carnivorous and Edentate Mammalia (*Bruta*, Linnæus) in the British Museum,' p. 385, I formed these animals into a family (*Tolypeutidæ*), from the manner in which they walk, and on account of the dorsal disk being partially free from the back of the body; but only being able to examine a living specimen, which I was afraid of injuring, I believed that the disk was attached to the middle of the back, which is found not to be the case when one can examine more carefully a specimen preserved in spirits.

Mr. Edward Gerrard, Jun., has sold two specimens of the Mataco (*Tolypeutes conurus*) to the British Museum, which had been preserved in spirits; and he has pointed out to me that these specimens show that the dorsal disk of these animals is quite free from the body of the animal, except in three places—(1st) at the front end round the neck, (2nd) on the sides at the margin inside the three median dorsal rings, and (3rd) over the pelvis and round the caudal