

usually ascribed—such as crystallization, pressure acting on concretions in the process of formation, or chemical deposition of sediment—will ever explain the points of structure and other characters seen in the specimens that I have selected for description.

HUNTERIAN MUSEUM,
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JOHN YOUNG.

ON A NEW PERISSODACTYLE UNGULATE FROM WYOMING.

SIR,—In the GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE for February, 1886, it is stated, p. 50, that no Perissodactyle mammal was known “to possess tubercular teeth.” Professor Cope does not supply the characters to which his term ‘tubercular’ is applicable. If he would kindly refer to p. 362 of my “Palæontology” (2nd ed. 1861), enlarged views of the molars of both jaws of a genus of Perissodactyles (*Pliolophus*), from Eocene, will be found. A still earlier example of ‘tubercular’ molars, in the genus *Hyracotherium*, is described and figured in “British Fossil Mammals and Birds,” 8vo., 1846, p. 422, cut 166: also from the ‘London Clay.’

Permit me to add that my estimate of the claims of Elephants and Mastodonts to rank as an ‘Order’ rests upon the multilamellate structure, size and succession of their ‘grinders,’ subordinate to which dental character may be cited a vertebral one, necessitating their special instrument the proboscis. The pentadactyle character is common to *Proboscidea* with many Rodent genera, as well as with the older Eocene members of the Coryphodont family, characterized by Lophiodontoid modifications of the true molars. These teeth afford the truest indications of affinity in the Ungulate series. The diminutive Rhinocerotoid represented by the genus *Hyrax* as little determines by molar characters an ordinal distinction from *Acerotherium* as do the modifications of teeth and limbs in *Bradypus* support an ordinal distinction in the Megatherioid family.

RICHARD OWEN.

THE “ALASKA GLACIER.”

SIR,—In reference to the description of the *Great Glacier* in Alaska, in “Nature” (Jan. 28th, 1886), I may draw attention to the letter of Mr. J. Melvin in the same number, which would appear to throw light on the subject of the progressive changes in it. The ridges delineated in the diagram of the Glacier as lying between the body of the Ice and the hill-side would seem to be analogous to the *Parallel Roads* in Norway valleys, only they are formed on the flat instead of the slope.

The body of the Glacier seems evidently to have contracted itself in consequence of loss of substance by melting underneath, and withdrawn itself by these decided starts from the hill-side, and left the ridges as relics of its foundations on the bottom of the valley.

Probably the Glacier ages ago was quite flat on the top, and reached across to the top of the morainic slope on the hill-side, and it has since lost great bulk below by ground melting, which by overstretching has caused the cracks or crevasses on the upper