

The Edentates are also large beasts, and the first impulse, under the influence of the sense of sight, is to declare them likewise Megasthenes, because they are big enough to be so. But these animals, large and small, while degradational like the Mutilates, are in striking contrast with the latter as regards muscular force and all other powers. They are cephalically feeble, below other Mammals; and they are of extreme muscular debility as compared with a Whale or any Megasthene. There is no increase of muscular power *because* of the degradation of the sensorial and psychical elements, as in the Whale, but a general degradation of every function and part. Thus they are literally microsthenic in life-system. Compared even with a quick-moving Rodent, the slow Sloth is muscularly feeble; for relative strength is to be measured, not by the single blow that may be given, but by the product of the strength of a single blow into the number of times this blow may be repeated in a given time, as for instance, in twenty-four hours.

The Edentates appear therefore to be as truly degradational *Microsthenes*, as the Mutilates are degradational Megasthenes. They show their feebleness according to the elliptic method, in their head and jaws to an extent not manifested even among Mutilates.

The Edentate type exhibits its inferiority to that of all other placental Mammals also in admitting more or less of a comingling of Reptilian characteristics with the Mammalian, as appears in the scale-made or shield-like armor of many species, the feeble sensibility of all, and several peculiarities in the skeleton:—showing thus that the type holds a position in some respects between those of Mammals and Reptiles, or at the extreme lower end of the placental series.

D. Additional Observations.

1. *Grade among groups.*—The groups under the several subdivisions in the proposed classification show a gradation in rank corresponding with their position. Moreover, the third group, as in the higher subdivisions of the animal kingdom, and in those presented in the article on Insects, is literally a *hypotypic* group. The hypotypic features are connected either with a more or less aquatic mode of life, and gross-amplification, or with long-amplification.

It may be here observed that were we to make the Imparidigitates and Paridigitates the two grander divisions of Herbivores, and so unite the Solipeds to the Proboscideans and Tapirideans, and the Suideans to the Ruminants, the Solipeds would have to go, because *metasthenic*, at the foot of the higher division, when they have the characteristics of a *superior* typical group, and not those of a hypotypic; and the Suideans would