

Table-cases containing a fine collection of shells are placed along the centre of the rooms, and upright cases filled with stuffed mammals and birds and variously preserved reptiles and fishes are ranged along the walls. The collection of mammalia is rich in insectivora—moles, shrews, and the like; and among the scarcer mammals are two manatees, and good examples of the aye-aye, and of the singular little African otter-like animal, *Potamogale velox*. The collection of birds is particularly good. The specimens are well stuffed and mounted, and well arranged. This collection belongs to the present king, and was chiefly brought together by him and his brother. It contains many rarities: *Didunculus strigirostris*, a good set of birds of paradise, including *Semiopteryx*, and a fine specimen of the great auk, *Alca impennis*, in excellent plumage and preservation, given to King Luiz by his brother-in-law, the King of Italy. The King of Portugal is very fond of natural history, and has a good general knowledge of it. He did us the honor to visit the ship when we were at Lisbon, and expressed himself greatly interested in the expedition.

The Botanic Garden is near the Palace of the Ajuda. It seems to have been very fine at one time, for there is a good range of glass, and the handsome terraces have been laid out and decorated with statuary and fountains with some taste, and evidently at great expense; but the garden has fallen into disuse for scientific purposes, and has been allowed to get into disorder and disrepair; and only a beautiful group or two of date-palms, and a splendid dragon-tree, with a head thirty feet in diameter, still maintain a trace of its former character. It is intended to lay out a piece of ground near the new Polytechnic School as a garden for teaching purposes, and I believe the old Botanic Garden will probably be merged in the grounds of the palace.

There is a very complete Meteorological and Magnetic Observatory, now under the energetic management of MM. J. C.