one very long; surface punctured, ashy, the sides occupied by a dark-brown streak or elongate patch, of very irregular outline and broken throughout with short spots and lines of the ashy ground-colour of the elytra. Body beneath clothed with ashy pile. Legs reddish; hind tibiæ with rather long apical spurs.

Ega.

[To be continued.]

XXXVIII.—*Notice of a new Species of* Kinixys *and other Tortoises from Central Africa.* By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S. &c.

Among the other very interesting zoological specimens brought from Central Africa by Capt. Speke, and presented to the British Museum, is an imperfect specimen of a Land-Tortoise, which appears to indicate the existence of a species that has not hitherto been recorded in the catalogues.

I therefore propose to record it provisionally as *Kinixys Spekii*, hoping that some other traveller will be able to bring more perfect specimens, and thus give us a more complete notion of the animal.

Kinixys Spekii.

Shell oblong, rather depressed, pale brown; the dorsal and upper part of the marginal plates yellow, deeply and distinctly concentrically grooved, with a black spot on the areola of each shield. The areola of the dorsal plates subcentral, small, granular, of the marginal plates small, rather behind the middle of the shields. The nuchal plate distinct, oblong-elongate. The sternum flat, convex on the sides, yellow, varied with numerous black-brown rays, which reach nearly to the margin; the anterior part of the sternum rather produced and truncated in front, the gular plates being short and rather small; the hinder end of the sternum short and rounded, and slightly nicked in the middle.

It is most like *K. Homeana*; but unfortunately it wants the hinder moveable part of the back, and therefore we cannot tell whether it has the prominence of the upper part of the fifth vertebral plate, which is characteristic of that species.

It differs from the older specimens of that genus (and the young have not occurred to me) in being longer and more oblong, and it has a very distinctly marked, large square spot occupying the areola of each of the dorsal plates, and a smaller but equally distinct black spot occupies the upper part of the areola of each of the marginal plates.

It may be only a richly coloured specimen of the young of *K. Homeana*; but the adult animal shows no indications of

having a dark areola, and there is a very great difference in the form and extension of the marginal (and especially of the anterior marginal) plates.

Along with the above specimen, Capt. Speke has also sent to the British Museum a specimen of *Testudo pardalis*, which differs from the general ventricose form by being elongated, like the Indian *Testudo stellata*. It is very solid for its size, and the black mark forms rays rather like the Indian species above-named. There are the head and feet of a *Testudo* in the same Collection, in spirits, which are believed to belong to the above shell. They agree with *T. pardalis*, which is peculiar for having the head covered with small scales, and only a pair of rather small thin frontal shields just over the ends of the nose.

XXXIX.—*On the Skeleton of a Seal* (Phoca Grœnlandica ?), *and the Cranium of a Duck, from the Pliocene Beds, Fifeshire.* By Robert Walker.

Fossils have not heretofore proved common in any of the Pliocene beds of the east of Fife; and although some of our clay-beds have been worked for many years, the discovery of fossil remains in any of them is of rare occurrence; and when they happen to be met with, it is always in the upper clays, no fossils of any kind, so far as I know, having ever been found in the boulder-clay of this district. In the spring of 1857, a nearly entire skeleton of a Seal was discovered in the red brick-clay of Stratheden, about nine or ten miles inland, and ranging from 100 to 150 feet above the level of the sea. This specimen was exhibited, and a paper on its discovery read, by Mr. Page, at the meeting of the British Association in Leeds: the specimen is in the Natural History Museum, Edinburgh. Another Seal, in fully a better state of preservation, was found in the same clay-pit in April 1859, and is now in the Natural History Museum, St. Andrew's. This skeleton, as well as the preceding one, had belonged to a young animal, and had evidently been imbedded in the clay while all the ligaments, if not the muscles, were entire. That this was the case may be inferred from all the bones being in their respective places, any little derangement of position being merely due to subsequent pressure. This skeleton measures about 3 feet 2 inches in extreme length. The vertebral formula is—7 cervical, 15 dorsal, 5 lumbar, 3 sacral, 13 caudal. The skull, which is very thin in this as well as in most of the Seal family, was completely crushed; and it was found impossible to restore more than the occipital and part of the parietal and temporal regions. The cervical vertebræ are all in good