marks möglich sei, wofür schon ihre bedeutende Stärke spricht. Und was unsere Ansicht noch weiter zu bewahrheiten scheint, ist, dass diese Ligamente an der seitlichen Fläche des Rückenmarks gelegen sind und dass eben die Seitenbewegungen (mouvements de latéralité) zum höchsten Grade bei den Schlangen entwickelt sind.

Paris, 15. April 1879.

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

1st April, 1879. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March, 1879, and called special attention to a young male of the Mule Deer, of North America (*Cariacus macrotis*), presented by Dr. J. D. Caton, of Ottawa, Illinois, U. S. A., and to a male Sumatran Rhinoceros, acquired by purchase, being the first example of this sex of the Sumatran Rhinoceros that the Society had yet acquired. — An extract was read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. Carl Bock, respecting the habits of the Mountain Antelope of Sumatra (*Capricornis sumatrensis*), of which he had obtained a living specimen destined for the Society's collection. — Mr. J. W. Clark exhibited and made remarks on a drawing of a Dolphin belonging to the genus *Lagenarhynchus*, which had been lately taken off Ramsgate. — Professor Flower exhibited a coloured drawing of a young female of the common Dolphin (*Delphinus delphis*) lately taken off the Coast of Cornwall, and made some observations on the published figures and geographical distribution of the species. — The Bird's eggs collected during the Challenger Expedition were exhibited. The series was stated to contain about 250 eggs, belonging to 50 different species. Amongst these were eggs of the Sheath-bill (*Chionis minor*) from Kerguelen, and of the Wandering Albatross (*Diomedea exulans*), from Marion Island. — Professor Mivart exhibited a figure of and made remarks upon a Kestrel with abnormal feet, in the collection of the Marquis de Wavrin, at Brussels. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, F. Z. S., read an account of the collection of birds made by Mr. F. W. Burbidge, in the Sooloo Islands. A new Jungle Fowl was described as *Gallus stramineicollis*, and a new Parrot as *Tanygnathus burbidgii*. — A second communication from Mr. Bowdler Sharpe, consisted of a list of the birds of Labuan Island and its dependencies founded principally on the collections formed during the last four years, by Governor Ussher and Mr. W. H. Treacher, but including also descriptions of a large number of eggs carefully collected by Mr. Hugh Low. One new species, *Cypselus lowi* was described. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Gollett, C. M. Z. S., containing the description of a new Fish of the genus *Lycodes*, from the Pacific, which he proposed to call *Lycodes pacificus*. — A communication was read from Prof. Garrod, F. R. S., containing an account of the variations in the trachea and tracheal muscles in the different forms of Gallinaceous Birds. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

Febr. 20, 1879. — A series of rare Birds were exhibited and commented on by Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe. Among the more intersting forms from

New Guinea were beautiful skins of *Paradisea Raggiana*, both male and female, collected by the Rev. M. Lawes. Of other birds from the Fijis, and obtained by Baron A. von Hügel, were species of the genus *Pinarolestes*, which are also found on Tutuela, one of the group of the Samoan Islands.

March 6, 1879. — Mr. Thom. Christie exhibited the os sepiae of a small rare species of Cuttle-Fish from Australia, collected by Dr. Bancroft. — The Secretary read, in the absence of the author, a paper »On the classification of the Maioid Crustacea, or Oxyrhyncha«, by Mr. Edward J. Miers. The Maioid Crabs have been placed by nearly all carcinologists at the head of the Brachyura, from the high degree evinced in their sensory organs and nervous system, and the group, moreover, is interesting on account of the variety of their types. Exteriorly they are distinguished by their more or less elongate carapace, an anteriorly narrow large epistoma, longitudinal antennules and situation of basal antennule joint. Their buccal cavity is quadrate; the branchiae are nine on each side, the afferent canal opening in front of the anterior legs, and the efferent at the sides of the fifth pair of ambulatory legs. Though closely related to the *Oxystomata* the *Oxyrhyncha* differ from them in their triangulate buccal cavity and position of afferent branchial channel; but *Mesorhoea* approximates on the part of the *Parthenopidae* to the Oxystomatous type. From the Cancroid Crabs (*Cyclometopa*) typical *Maiidae* are distinguished by longitudinal antennules and position of basal antennule joint; the *Parthenopidae*, however, occupying an intermediate place between the rest of the *Oxyrhyncha* and certain *Cancroidea*. The author summarized and reviewed the various classifications of Milne-Edwards (1834), De Haan (1839), Dana (1851—1852), Alphonse Milne-Edwards (1860), Stimpson (1870) and Claus (1876), partly adopting the first and second primary groups of Dana, but with considerable modifications. His synoptical arrangement comprises (with short diagnostic characters) 4 families, 12 subfamilies, 106 genera and 14 subgenera, the characters of the families being thus defined:

Fam. I. Inachidae. Eyes non-retractile or retractile against the sides of the carapace. No defined orbits exist, but there is often a well-developed praeocular and postocular spine. Basal joint of antennae usually slender, sometimes moderately enlarged.

Fam. II. Maiidae. Eyes retractile within the orbits, which are distinctly defined, but often more or less incomplete below or marked with open fissures in their upper and lower margins. Basal antennal joint always more or less enlarged.

Fam. III. Pericerídae. Eyes retractile within the small circular and well-defined orbits, which are never incomplete as in the *Maiidae*. Basal antennal joint well developed and constituting the greater portion of the inferior walls of the orbit; this joint is usually very considerably enlarged.

Fam. IV. Parthenopidae. Eyes usually retractile within the small circular and well-defined orbits. The inferior wall of the orbit is continued to within a very short distance of the front. The antennae are very slender, the basal joint does not, as in the *Pericerídae*, constitute a great part of the inferior orbital margin, but is very small and usually does not reach to the front, and with the next joint occupies the narrow hiatus intervening between the front and inner orbital angle.