

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

13th December, 1881. — The Secretary read a Report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November, 1881, and called attention to certain interesting accessions which had been received during that period. — Mr. Slater exhibited and made remarks on two skins of a Rail from Macquarie Island, south of New Zealand, which had been sent to him by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., F.Z.S. — Mr. H. Seebohm, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on specimens of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*) and Pallas's Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius major*), which had been shot near Cardiff, and were new to the British avifauna. — A communication was read from Mr. Clements R. Markham, F.R.S., containing an account of his researches into the former Whale-Fishery of the Basque Provinces of Spain. — Messrs. J. J. Lister and J. J. Fletcher read a paper on the condition of the median portion of the vaginal apparatus in the Macropodidae, in which they arrived at the following conclusions: — 1) In the Macropodidae the median vaginal canal is closed in early life. 2) In the genera *Macropus*, *Halmaturus* and *Petrogale* (and perhaps also *Dorcopsis* and *Dendralogus*) an opening is formed, leading directly from the median vaginal canal into the urogenital sinus, which opening most probably gives passage to the young. This opening may be formed early in life, as is usual in the genus *Halmaturus*, or not till young are about to be produced, as in *Macropus rufus*. 3) The evidence with regard to *Macropus major* is conflicting: in one case the median canal has been found open after parturition, and in two others closed. 4) In *Hypsiprymnus Gaimardi* (and probably also *H. murinus*) the median canal remains closed, and the young passes down the lateral vaginal canals, which present a different structure from that found in the other examples of the Macropodidae. — A communication was read from the Rev. Canon Tristram, containing the description of a new Fruit-Pigeon of the genus *Carpophaga*, from the Louisiade Archipelago, which he proposed to name *Carpophaga Salvadorii*. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

November 3, 1881. — Prof. J. S. Cobbold exhibited under the microscope about a hundred eggs of *Bilharzia haematobia*. They were taken from a Gentleman who had just arrived from Egypt and who was the victim of haematuria, induced by the parasites in question, and supposed to have been contracted during a hunting expedition. By adding water nearly all the eggs were hatched during the meeting of the Society and the rare opportunity was thus afforded of witnessing the behaviour of the newly born ciliated animalcules. — Mr. R. MacLachlan exhibited and made remarks on a parthenogenetically-bred beetle (*Gastrophysa raphani*). The specimen had been the second reared by Dr. J. A. Osborne in Ireland. The egg which produced it was one of a batch of 42 laid by a virgin female on the 14th June and was hatched on the 24th. Moults occurred on the 1st and 5th July, meta-

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