Da diese Fragen, wie mir scheint, nur mit Unterstützung weiterer Kreise beantwortet werden können, habe ich sie in einem Fragebogen zusammengestellt, welcher mit gefälliger Genehmigung des Herrn Professor Ehlers durch das letzterschienene Heft der Zeitschrift für wissenschaftliche Zoologie verbreitet wurde.

Sollten sich einige Zoologen, denen mein Fragebogen nicht zugegangen ist, für die Angelegenheit interessiren, so würde ich ihnen sehr gern Exemplare desselben zur Verfügung stellen.

Ich gestatte mir hinzuzufügen, dass meine Fragen sich durch einfache Beobachtungen an den in den zoologischen Museen conservirten Exemplaren erledigen lassen.

Dr. Th. Weyl,

Januar 1882. Docent a. d. Univers. Erlangen (Bayern).

2. Zoological Society of London.

3rd January, 1882. — Mr. W. A. Forbes exhibited and made remarks on the Horns of the Prong Buck (*Antilocapra americana*) lately shed by the specimen living in the Society's Gardens. This was, it was believed, the first instance on record of the same individual having shed its horns in captivity in two consecutive years. — A communication was read from Prof. Owen, C.B., on *Dinornis* (Part XXIII), containing a description of *Dinornis parvus*, a new species of about the size of the Dodo, of which a very complete skeleton (now in the British Museum) had been lately discovered in a cavern in the province of Nelson, New Zealand. — A communication was read from M. L. Taczanowski, C.M.Z.S., containing an account of the Birds collected by Mr. Stolzmann during his recent journey in North-eastern Peru, with descriptions of some new species. — A communication was read from Mr. Martin Jacoby, containing the descriptions of three new genera and fourteen new species of Phytophagous Coleoptera from various localities. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas read a paper on the African Mungooses (*Herpestinae*), in which he reduced the described species of this group to nineteen, divisible into seven genera. — The Rev. Canon Tristram read the description of a new species of Land-rail obtained at Ribè, East Africa, by Mr. R. C. Ramshaw, which was proposed to be named *Crex suahilensis*. — Mr. W. A. Forbes read a paper on the existence of a gall-bladder in, and on other points in the anatomy of, the Barbets and Toucans (*Capitonidae*). The peculiar form of the gall-bladder in these birds, as well as other features in their myology now described for the first time, were stated to make the relationship of this group to the Woodpeckers (*Picidae*), still more certain than it had previously been from the observations of Nitzsch, Kessler, Garrod, and others. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of London.

1. December, 1881. — Mr. J. Harris Stone exhibited specimens of the dried plant and made remarks on *Lychnis viscaria* as a trap for Ants. He

pointed that 3 or 4 glutinous sticky rings are situate immediately underneath the nodes on the flowering stalks. Ants climbing are arrested and die in numbers at the sticky zones. In Norway he had observed 95 percent of the plants with dead Ants thereon; and he submits — whether the zones are a protection to the flowers? the Ants noxious? or their dead bodies serve as nutriment to the plant? — Dr. Cobbold exhibited diseased roots of *Stephanotus* which he had received from Dr. Masters. They swarmed with myriads of nematode worms and were also covered with minute Acari. He referred the worms to the genus *Leptodera* and stated that thirty years back he discovered similar parasites in the shrivelled leaves of *Gloxinia*. — Prof. Owen read a paper on the Homology of the Conario-hypophysial Tract, or the socalled Pineal and Pituitary glands. He propounds the view that it is the modified homologue of the mouth and gullet of Invertebrates; that the suboesophageal-ganglia or ganglionic masses or neural cords constitute the centres whence are derived and caudally continued the homologues of the Vertebrate Myelon. — Sir John Lubbock gave an account of some researches of his to determine in how far certain of the Lower Animals have an appreciation of the sense of colour. In experiments made by M. Paul Bert on Daphnia a small fresh water crustacean some years ago, he concluded their limits of vision are the same as ours and generalized the same for all animals. Sir John has already shown that Ants do perceive the ultra violet rays. With regard to Daphnia he arrives at a different conclusion from Paul Bert and proves experimentally that this crustacean is sensitive to ultra violet rays which are invisible to our eyes. — Mr. MacLachlan communicated a paper: On the Neuroptera of Madeira and the Canary Islands. He gave a tabular statement of the species found in the islands indicating those known also to exist in Europe. 37 species had been found in Madeira, 31 in the Canaries, 16 being common to both. The paper concluded with a detailed account of the species including descriptions of several new ones.

15. December, 1881. — Prof. T. S. Cobbold exhibited a large guinea-worm (*Dracunculus*) taken from a pony and forwarded by Vet. Surg. Frederick Smith from Madras. Only one previous instance of the occurrence of this parasite in the horse has been mentioned, and its authenticity was doubted by Fedschenko and other helminthologists. — Prof. P. Martin Duncan read a communication on the Morphology of the Test of the *Temnopleuridae*. The Temnopleuridae a sub family of the Oligopores, are remarkable for their sutural grooves and depressions at the angles of the plates. The author examined the grooves and depressions or pits in *Salmacis sulcata* Agass., and found that these last are continued into the test as flask shaped cavities sometimes continuous at their bases which are close to the inside of the test, but do not perforate. This is the case in the median vertical sutures of the interradium and ambulacrum. Between the poriferous plates of the ambulacra are numerous pits in vertical series which are the ends of cylinders closed and often curved within. Altogether the undermining is considerable. The grooves over the sutural margins are losses to the thickness of the test. The edges of the contiguous plates are sutured together by a multitude of knobs and sockets, $^1/_{300}$ of an inch in diameter, visible with a hand lens. In the vertical sutures there is an alternate development of knobs and sockets on each plate corresponding to a similar development on the opposed

plates and these structures lining the pits. Between the horizontal plate-edges are sutures remarkable in their distinctness and position. The apical edges of the interradial plates have multitudes of sockets, and the actinal edges have corresponding knobs; whilst the apical edges of the ambulacral plates have knobs and the actinal have sockets. The ambulacra on their interradial edges have nothing but knobs and the interradial plates corresponding sockets so that a great series of knob and socket »dowelling« prevails. *Temnopleurus torematicus* Agass. gave similar results modified by the great development of the grooves and the young form was shown to differ from the adult and to have rows of knobs and sockets and barely penetrating pores. The arrangement in *Salmacis bicolor* and *Amblypneustes ovum* was considered. The pits have an importance, for they increase the superficies of the derm, and near the peristome as indicated by Lovén they contain Sphaeridia. The paucity of knowledge respecting the union of the plates of the Echinoidea was noticed and the nature of the suturing of an *Echinus* and *Diadema* was explained, the first resembling part of that of a young *Temnopleurus*, but it was without knobs and sockets. The author concluded by separating the Temnopleuridae in two divisions, those with pores and those with grooves without pores. The last are the oldest in time and resemble young modern forms which subsequently develop pits. He reduced the number of genera considerably. — Communications were read »On the Digastric Muscle; its modifications and functions« by Dr. G. E. Dobson, and »On the Mollusca of the Challenger Expedition«, Part XI, by the Rev. K. Boog Watson. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Leiden. — Herr Dr. P. P. C. Hoek hat mit dem 1. Januar die Stelle als Assistent am Zootomischen Laboratorium niedergelegt. An seiner Statt bekleidet diese Stelle jetzt Herr Dr. J. W. van Wijhe.

Necrolog.

Am 21. Nov. 1881 starb in Wien Ami Boué, der bekannte Geolog, Palaeontolog und Geograph. Er war am 16. März 1794 in Hamburg geboren, hatte in Genf und Edinburg studirt und war in letzter Stadt am 1. August 1817 Doctor der Medicin geworden. Im Jahre 1821 kam er zum ersten Male nach Wien, wo er sich, nach vielen Reisen, ganz heimisch gemacht hat.

Am 11. Januar 1882 starb in Cöln a. Rh., wo er sich eines Familienfestes wegen aufhielt, Theodor Schwann, Professor in Lüttich. Er war am 7. Decbr. 1810 in Neuß bei Düsseldorf geboren, promovirte 1834 in Berlin. Im Jahre 1838 erhielt er einen Ruf als Professor der Anatomie nach Löwen (Louvain), 1848 wurde er in gleicher Stellung nach Lüttich berufen, vertauschte 1858 die Anatomie mit der Physiologie, feierte 1878 sein vierzigjähriges Lehrerjubiläum und legte sein Amt im folgenden Jahre nieder.

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