

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

21st December, 1886. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November, 1886. — Mr. Howard Saunders, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on a specimen of a hybrid between the Tufted Duck and the Pochard, bred in Lancashire in 1886. — Mr. J. Bland Sutton, F.Z.S., read a paper on Atavism, being a critical and analytical study on this subject. — Dr. von Lendenfeld read a paper on the classification and systematic position of the Sponges. This was based on the recent researches on the Hexactinellida, Tetractinellida, and Monaxonida of the »Challenger« Expedition, and on his own investigations on the rich Australian Sponge-fauna, particularly of the groups Calcarea, Chalinidae, and Horny Sponges. A complete system of Sponges was proposed, and worked out down to the families and subfamilies, and all the principal genera were mentioned. An approximately complete list for the literature of Sponges (comprising the titles of 1446 papers), a »key« to the determination of the 46 families, and a discussion of the systematic position of the Sponges were also contained in the paper. — Prof. Ray Lankester communicated a paper by Dr. A. Gibbs Bourne, of the Presidency College, Madras, on Indian Earthworms, containing an account of the Earthworms collected and observed by the author during excursions to the Nilgiris and Shevaroy Hills. Upwards of twenty new species were described. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

16th December 1886. — The President announced that Sir George MacLeay, K.C.M.G., had presented to the Society, a portrait of the late Rev. William Kirby the distinguished Entomologist, and the manuscripts and Correspondence of his Father, Alexander MacLeay elected F.L.S. 1786, and formerly Secretary to the Society. — A special vote of thanks was accorded to Sir George by the Fellows for his valuable donation. — Mr. Edward A. Heath exhibited a stormy Petrel, *Procellaria pelagica*, which was picked up alive in Kensington Gardens on the 9th December. The bird evidently had been driven landwards by the great storm of the preceding day. — Experiments on the sense of smell in Dogs was the title of a paper read by Dr. George J. Romanes. After preliminary observations on the faculties of special sense generally and in particular that of smell as enormously developed in Carnivora and Ruminantia, the Author related his own experiments with a setter-bitch. His conclusions are that in the case of this animal she distinguished his trail from that of all others by the peculiar smell of his boots, and not by the peculiar smell of his feet. No doubt the smell which she recognized as belonging distinctively to my trail was communicated to the boots by the exudations from my feet: but these exudations required to be combined with shoe-leather before they were recognised by her. Moreover it may be inferred that if I had always been accustomed to shoot without boots or stockings, she would have learnt to associate with me a trail made by my bare feet. The experiments further show that although a few square millimetres of the surface of one boot is amply sufficient to make a trail which the animal can recognise as mine, the scent is not able to

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