

various species of the family Lemniscidæ. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on the anatomy of Earthworms, being a further contribution to his researches on that subject. The present paper treated of the structure of *Eudrilus sylvicola*, the reproductive organs of *Acanthodrilus*, and the genital setæ of *Perichæta Houletti*. — A communication was read from Mr. A. D. Bartlett, Superintendent of the Society's Gardens, containing remarks upon the mode of moulting of the Great Bird of Paradise (*Paradisæa apoda*), as observed in a captive specimen. — A communication was read from Mr. J. Douglas Ogilby, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, containing the description of a rare Australian fish (*Girella cyanea*). — A second paper by Mr. Ogilby contained the description of an undescribed fish of the genus *Prionurus*, obtained in Port Jackson, which was proposed to be called *Prionurus maculatus*.

3<sup>rd</sup> May, 1887. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of April 1887, and called attention to two young Polar Bears (*Ursus maritimus*) presented by Joseph Monteith, Esq.; and to two Crested Ducks (*Anas cristata*) from the Falkland Islands, presented by F. E. Cobb, Esq., C.M.Z.S. — Extracts were read from a letter addressed to the Secretary by Mr. Roland Trimen, F.Z.S., respecting the obtaining of a second example of *Laniarius atrocroceus* in South Africa. — Mr. J. Jenner-Weir, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on a skull of a Boar from New Zealand. — A communication was read from Mr. G. A. Boulenger, containing the description of a new Snake of the genus *Lamprophis*, based on a specimen living in the Society's Gardens, which had been presented to the collection by the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk, C.M.Z.S. — A communication was read from Mr. J. H. Leech, F.Z.S., containing an account of the Diurnal Lepidoptera of Japan and Corea, based on a collection recently made by the author during a recent entomological expedition to those countries. The total number of species in Mr. Leech's list was 155. In Japan Mr. Leech had discovered one new species (*Papilio mikado*) and in Corea four others. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe, F.Z.S., gave an account of a second collection of birds formed by Mr. L. Wray in the mountains of Perak, Malay Peninsula. This collection contained examples of about fifty species, of which ten were described as new to science. — Mr. H. J. Elwes, F.Z.S., pointed out the characters of some new species of Diurnal Lepidoptera, specimens of which had been obtained by him during his recent visit to Sikkim. — A communication was read from Mr. Lionel de Nicéville, containing an account of some new or little-known Indian Butterflies. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

7<sup>th</sup> April, 1887. — A series of photographs taken instantaneously from life of the white Stork (*Ciconia alba*) were exhibited by Mr. Edward Bidwell. They most accurately represented the birds during the breeding season. Not only were the nests and young thereon and old birds well shown but the remarkable attitudes assumed preparatory to a lighting and commencing flight, as well as the peculiar twist of the neck in calling, &c were most instructive. — Dr. Francis Day exhibited and described some malformed Trout in an early stage of development.

21<sup>st</sup> April 1887. — Mr. P. Geddes read a paper »On the Nature and Causes of Variation in Plants and Animals.« The fact of organic evolution is no longer denied, but its physiological factors have not yet been adequately analyzed. Even those who regard natural selection as at once the most important and the only ascertained factor of the process admit that such an explanation being from the external standpoint, — the adaptation of the organism to survive the shocks of the environment — stands in need of a complementary explanation which shall lay bare the internal mechanism of the process, i. e. not merely account for the survival, but explain the origin of variations. The relative importance of the external and internal explanations will moreover vary greatly in proportion as variations are found to be »spontaneous«, i. e. in some given direction continuously. Avoiding any mere postulation of an »inherent progressive tendency« common to both pre- and post- Darwinian writers, the definite analysis of the problem starts with that conception of protoplasm which is the ultimate result of morphological and physiological analysis, viz: — to interpret all phenomena of form and function of cells, tissues, organs and individuals alike in terms of its constructive and destructive (»anabolic and katabolic«) changes. While the external or environmental explanation of evolution starts with the empirical study of the effect of human selection upon the variations of animals and plants under domestication, the internal or organismal one as naturally commences with the fundamental rhythm of variation in the lowest organism in nature. It also investigates the nature of the simple reproductive variation upon which the origin of species as well as individuals must depend, before attempting that of individual variation. The interpretation of all the phenomena of male and female sex as the outcome of katabolic and anabolic preponderance is shown largely to supersede the current one of sexual selection, and in some cases at least that of natural selection; e. g. the specially important one of the origin of such polymorphic communities as those of ants and bees. In such cases natural selection acts not as the cause of organic evolution, but as the check or limitation of it, and acquires importance rather as determining the extinction than the origin of species. The process of correlation, especially that between individuation and reproduction is mooted by the author, and its application to the origin and modification of flowers etc. outlined. A discussion is given of the embryological and pathological factors of internal evolution, with an application of the whole argument to the construction of genealogical tree of plants and animals. — A report was read »On the Gephyreans of the Mergui Archipelago«, by Prof. Emil Selenka of Erlangen; this communication dealing chiefly with a technical description of the species, a few being new. — J. Murie.

### 3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

23<sup>rd</sup> February, 1887. — The following papers were read: — 1) Botanical. — 2) Miscellanea Entomologica No. III. Revision of the Australian Scaritidæ. By William Macleay, F.L.S., &c. This paper deals only with one section of the Scaritidæ, those with more or less straight and blunt pointed maxillæ, though the numbers are given of the other section, and one new genus described. Several species of the first section (the Sub-family

# ZOBODAT - [www.zobodat.at](http://www.zobodat.at)

Zoologisch-Botanische Datenbank/Zoological-Botanical Database

Digitale Literatur/Digital Literature

Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1887

Band/Volume: [10](#)

Autor(en)/Author(s):

Artikel/Article: [2. Linnean Society of London 273-274](#)