

## II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

### 1. Zoological Society of London.

17th March, 1896. — Mr. Sclater called the attention of the meeting to the prospectus of the great work of the German Zoological Society, to be called »Das Tierreich«, spoken of at the last meeting, and gave some particulars as to the mode in which the plan was intended to be carried out. — Mr. Sclater also called attention to the appointment of a Committee on Zoological Nomenclature at the International Zoological Congress held at Leyden last year. — A communication was read from Lt.-Col. C. T. Bingham, F.Z.S., containing a contribution to the knowledge of the Hymenopterous fauna of Ceylon. The paper was founded mainly on the collections made in that island by Col. Verbury, R.A., and Mr. E. E. Green, and dealt only with the Monotrochous Hymenoptera, of which 335 species were recorded. Of these 7 were now described as new. The author observed that this number was far less than what must actually occur in an island with so varied a climate and flora. Most of the species, as was to be expected, likewise occurred in India. — A communication was read from Mr. Edward T. Browne, F.Z.S., on British Hydroids and Medusae. This paper contained descriptions of the early stages and notes on twenty species of Medusae, of which examples had been collected at Plymouth, and in Valencia Harbour on the west coast of Ireland. It also contained a revision of the synonyms of the species and an account of their distribution. Notes on the hydroids connected with some of the species were added. — Mr. A. Smith Woodward, F.Z.S., read a paper on some extinct fishes of the Teleostean family Goniorhynchidae. He described a new specimen of *Notogoneus osculus* from the Eocene (Green River Shales) of Wyoming, U.S.A., confirming Cope's determination of this fish as a member of the family Goniorhynchidae. He also pointed out that the so-called *Sphenolepis squamosseus* and *S. Cuvieri*, imperfectly described by Agassiz from the Eocene of France, are generically identical with *Notogoneus*. In proof of this identification, he gave an account of new specimens in the British Museum. The Goniorhynchidae were thus shown to have comprised freshwater fishes in the early tertiary period both in Europe and North America. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

### 2. New York Academy of Sciences, Biological Section.

Feb. 7, 1896. — Dr. J. G. Curtis in the Chair. A communication from the council was received asking that the Section take action on Rep. Hurley's bill »To fix the standard of Weights and Measures by the adoption of the metric system of weights and measures.« — On motion of Dr. Dean the Section approved the bill and the Secretary was directed to express the entire commendation of it to the Council. — Dr. Arnold Graf read a paper on »The Structure of the Nephridia in Clepsine.« He finds in the cells of the intra cellular duct fine cytoplasmic anastomosing threads which form a contractile mechanism. These are stimulated by granules which are most numerous near the lumen of the cell, and thus peristalsis is set up which moves the urine out of the duct. In the upper part of the intra cellular duct, the two or three cells next to the vesicle or funnel have no distinct lumen but are vacuolated; the vacuoles of the first cell being small, those of the second larger and so on, till the vacuoles become permanent as a lumen. He explains the action of the first cell as being similar tho the in-

gestion of particles by the infusorians. The matter taken up thus from the funnel by the first cell is carried by the rest and so on till the cells having a lumen are reached. The presence of the excretum causes the granules to stimulate the muscular fibres of the cells, peristalsis results and the substance is carried outwards. The character of this contractile reticulum offers an explanation of the structure of a cilium as being the continuation of a contractile reticular thread. — N. R. Harrington in »Observations on the lime gland of the Earthworm« described the minute structure of these glands in *L. terrestris*, and showed that the lime is taken up from the blood by wandering connective tissue cells which form club shaped projections on the lamellae of the gland, and which pass off when filled with lime. The new cell comes up from the base of the older cell and repeats the process. This explanation is in harmony with the fact that in all other invertebrates lime is laid down by connective tissue cells. Histological structure and the developmental history confirm it. — Dr. Bashford Dean, offered some observations on »Instinct in some of the lower Vertebrates.« The young of *Amia calva*, the dogfish of the Western States, attach themselves, when newly hatched to the water plants at the bottom of the nest which the male *Amia* has built. They remain thus attached until the yolk sac is absorbed. As soon as they are fitted to get food they flock together in a dense cluster following the male. When hatched in an aquarium they go through the same processes. The young fry take food particles only when the particles are in motion, never when they are still. The larvae of *Necturus* also take food particles that are in motion. C. L. Bristol, Secretary.

### 3. Deutsche Zoologische Gesellschaft.

Jahresversammlung in Bonn

vom 28.—30. Mai.

Vorträge haben ferner angemeldet die Herren

Prof. F. Blochmann (Rostock): Die Epithelfrage bei Cestoden und Trematoden (mit Dem.).

Prof. O. Bütschli (Heidelberg): Über den Bau der quellbaren Körper und die Quellung.

Dr. F. Schaudinn (Berlin): Über das Centralkorn der Heliozoen, ein Beitrag zur Centrosomenfrage.

Dr. P. Samassa (Heidelberg): Über die äußeren Entwicklungsbedingungen der Eier von *Rana temporaria*.

Dr. R. v. Erlanger (Heidelberg): Über die Befruchtung und ersten Theilungen des Eies von *Ascaris megalocephala*, nebst allgemeinen Betrachtungen über den Bau des Protoplasmas, der Spindel und des Centrosomas (mit Dem.).

Prof. V. Häcker (Freiburg i. Br.): Einige Berührungspuncte der Entwicklungsmechanik und Zellenlehre.

Demonstrationen haben angemeldet die Herren

Dr. Samassa (Heidelberg): Über die Keimblätterbildung bei Wirbelthieren.

Dr. F. Schaudinn (Berlin): Copulationsstadien von *Actinophrys sol* Ehrbg.

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