

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. Yerbury, 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 autor 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 Gonorhynchidae. 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 Gonorhynchidae. 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 Gonorhynchidae 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-

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