

ingestive cells, and the cavity thus arising, i. e. the coelom, is the seat of the monocytic digestive processes.

Thus, just as in monoblastic forms, the single ingestive cells wandering inwards represent the first stage in the evolution of an internal enteric cavity, so in diploblastic forms such as Porifera the ingestive cells wandering into the mesogloea represent the first stage in the evolution of mesoblastic coelomic cavities (Fig. 2 a).

(Fortsetzung folgt.)

II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. The Term »Syzygy« in the Description of Crinoids.

Letter to the Editor.

eingeg. 28. März 1896.

With reference to the note on this subject that you kindly published for me in *Zoologischen Anzeiger*, 19. Bd. p. 57—61. Febr. 3, 1896, I have received many favourable expressions of opinion. It will advance the cause of reform if you will kindly permit me to quote two of the most influential.

Mr. P. de Loriol Le Fort, who has written more on both recent and fossil Crinoids than any author now living, says: »J'ai toujours compris comme vous le terme de Syzygie, c'est à dire en l'envisageant comme une mode d'union de deux articles, chacun des deux étant une unite. On ne peut pas dire d'une syzygie qu'elle est un mode d'articulation, une articulation indiquant toujours un mouvement possible«.

Mr. Frank Springer, who after the lamented death of Charles Wachs-muth, remains the leading authority on fossil Crinoids in America, writes: »I have read with much satisfaction your paper on , Syzygy ' , and I endorse your proposed reform in every particular. I shall follow your plan in this respect in whatever I may do hereafter«.

It is not too much to hope that a general agreement may now be arrived at on this point.

F. A. Bather.

British Museum (Nat. Hist.) 26 March, 1896.

2. New York Academy of Sciences, Biological Section.

March 9th, 1896. — Mr. F. B. Sumner read a paper on »The Descent Tree of the Variations of a Land Snail from the Philippines«, illustrated by a lantern slide. Mr. Sumner described the range in variation in size and markings in the shell, and arranged the varieties in the form of a tree of three branches diverging from the most generalized type. It was shown that these several varieties occupy the same geographical region and Mr. Sumner was of the opinion that their occurrence could not be explained by natural selection since if the colorations were supposed to be protective it would be impossible to explain the evolution of these three types. Prof. Osborn, in discussion, was inclined to take the same view. Dr. Dyar however, thought the explanation by natural selection not necessarily excluded, since the variations seemed analogous to the dimorphism in Sphinx larvae, which has been shown by Poulton to be probably due to this factor. — The other paper was by Dr. Arnold Graf on »The Problem of the Transmission of Acquired Characters«. — Dr. Graf discussed the views of the modern schools of evolutionists and adopted the view that the trans-

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Artikel/Article: [1. The Term "Syzygy" in the Description of Crinoids
198](#)