

from the Congo, remarkable for the retention of the right opercular gill. The left opercular gill was absent, but there was no indication that its absence was due to injury.—Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks upon a pale-coloured specimen of the Reedbuck (*Cervicapra arundinum*), from the Nyasa-Tanganyika plateau.—A communication was read from Dr. Florentino Ameghino, C.M.Z.S., on the primitive type of the Plexodont Molars of Mammalia. In it the author endeavoured to show that this dentition did not originate in the gradual complication of the simple and conical primitive teeth of the Reptilia, but was the result of the fusion of the dental germs and embryos of several simple teeth.—Mr. W. E. de Winton, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Mammals collected by Mr. F. W. Styan, principally in the Chinese province of Sechuen. The collection contained specimens of 22 species, four of which, viz. *Chimarrogale Styani*, *Soriculus hypsibius*, *Cricetus sinensis*, and *Lepus sechuenensis*, were made the types of new species and described in the paper.—Mr. Edgar A. Smith, F.Z.S., read a paper on a collection of Land-Shells from British Central Africa, which had been presented to the British Museum by Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B. Of the 44 species represented in the collection and enumerated in the paper, 24 were found to be new to science.—Mr. Alfred Pease, M.P., F.Z.S., read a paper on the distribution of the Dorcas and Loder's Gazelles in Algeria, in which he pointed out that the former species was not confined to the country immediately south of the Atlas Range, but was to be found where suitable vegetation existed in almost all the districts of the Sahara. Mr. Pease had found it in the Mزاب Desert, in the neighbourhood of Ouargla, and along with Loder's Gazelle in the sand-dune country south and south-east of Ouargla, and here and there throughout in the Oued Rhir. Mr. Pease had observed the Rime (Loder's Gazelle) only in the sand-deserts. The Dorcas Gazelle was found in the Hoggar and in the neighbourhood of Ghadamis along with the Rime.—Messrs. C. Davies Sherborn, F.Z.S., and B. B. Woodward communicated an additional note on the dates of publication of the 'Encyclopédie Méthodique'.—P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

March 29th, 1899. — The President delivered the Annual Address, in which firstly, the more important events of the Session of 1898 were reviewed. It was gratifying to be able to report satisfactory progress in the usual field of the Society's operations, and important developments in the direction of an extended sphere of usefulness in the future. The Members' Roll remained in practically a stationary condition; five Members had been elected during the year, four had resigned, and the death of Lieutenant Beddome, of Hobart, had deprived the Society of an ardent conchologist, who was elected into the Society in 1880. Three Parts of the Proceedings for the year had been published and distributed. The concluding Part was almost ready. The volume comprised 833 pages, and 33 plates; and contained 40 papers read during the year. The first Macleay Bacteriologist, Mr. R. Greig Smith, M.Sc., whose appointment was announced a year ago, arrived from England to take up his work, in September last. In November a scheme of expenditure, involving an outlay of about £ 660, for fitting up and equipping the laboratory was approved of by the Council, and the work was commenced. One con-

tract for fittings, costing £ 164 11 s., was satisfactorily completed in February. Since then the Bacteriologist had been able to commence his preliminary work, an interim equipment having been arranged for at a cost of £ 126. With the arrival of supplementary apparatus and chemicals ordered in Europe and now on the way to Australia, and the completion of the tiling of the floor which had been delayed by an accident to the contractor's plant, the laboratory would be practically finished. The Society was to be congratulated on the improvement in the Hall, and in its acquisition of a laboratory of so satisfactory a character. In the capacity of trustee the Society was especially to be congratulated, since Sir William Macleay's intentions and directions were now on the point of realisation. The Society had given effect to the trust; it now remained for the successive Macleay Bacteriologists to justify Sir William's conviction that the status of bacteriology in Australia could advantageously be raised. — The main portion of the Address was a consideration of the claims of "neo-vitalism" in favour of the conception of purpose as a positive working hypothesis in biology. A comparison was drawn between the methods and conceptions of morphology and physiology, and reference was also made to the evidence for ultramicroscopical structural differentiation in living germinal material as possible basis of hereditary properties. — 1) Descriptions of new Australian Lepidoptera. By Oswald B. Lower, F.E.S. Fifty-five species, distributed among the *Psychidae*, *Arctiidae*, *Monocteniadæ*, *Noctuidæ*, *Botydae*, *Tortricidae*, *Grapholithidae*, *Gelechiidae*, *Xyloryctidae*, *Oecophoridae*, *Elachistidae*, *Plutellidae*, and *Tineidae* are described as new, with supplementary observations on certain imperfectly known species. — 2) and 3) Botanical. — 4) Description of *Agromyza phaseoli*, a new Species of Leaf-mining Fly. By D. W. Coquillet. (Communicated by W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S.) — 5) Description of a new Saw-fly destructive to the foliage of *Eucalyptus globulosus*, in Victoria. By W. W. Froggatt, F.L.S. — 6) Contributions to the Morphology and Development of the Urogenital Organs in Marsupialia. i. On the Urogenital Organs of *Perameles*, together with an Account of the Phenomena of Parturition. By J. P. Hill, B.Sc., F.L.S. The paper contains an extended account of the anatomy of the female urogenital organs. Evidence is brought forward to show that these have retained a more archaic character than is found in any other Australian Marsupial hitherto described, and that indeed the adult female urogenital organs in *Perameles* are in a condition which can only be described as persistently embryonic. The phenomena of parturition are described in detail, and it is shown that the young reach the exterior by way of a median passage constituted in front by an extremely short epithelially canal — the common median vagina — formed by the union posteriorly of the two median vaginal cul-de-sacs, and behind by a relatively very long cleft-like slit, entirely destitute of an epithelial lining — the pseudo-vaginal passage — lying in the connective tissue between the lateral vaginal canals. — Mr. Rainbow exhibited on behalf of Mr. E. G. W. Palmer, a living specimen of the spider *Lycosa Godefroyi*, L. Koch, from Lawson. The specimen, a female, was covered with the recently hatched out young. The spiderlings are always so carried by the female during infancy, but when old enough to forage for themselves, distribute by the process of ballooning. The egg-bag or cushion is always carried by these spiders attached to the spinnerets.

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