2. Zoological Society of London.

December 18th, 1900. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1900. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Major A. St. Hill Gibbons, the skull and horns of a White Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros simus*?) from the White Nile, and the mounted heads of two species of Topi Antelopes, which had been procured by Major Gibbons during his recent journey through Africa from south to north. Major Gibbons read his field-notes on these Antelopes and on the White Rhinoceros. — The Secretary also exhibited, on behalf of Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B., some pieces of skin of an apparently new species of Zebra which had been ascertained to inhabit the forest on the banks of the Semleki River near the borders of the Uganda Protectorate. — A communication was read from Capt. Stanley S. Flower, F.Z.S., containing an account of the animals he had obtained or observed during Sir William Garstin's expedition to the White Nile. Amongst these were examples of several rare species of Antelopes, such as the White-eared Kob (*Cobus leucotis*) and Mrs. Gray's Kob (*Cobus maria*), and numerous specimens of the Shoe-bill or Whale-headed Stork (*Balaeniceps rex*). — A communication was also read from Mr. W. Malcolm Thomson containing an account of a large Branchiate Polynoid (*Lepidonotus giganteus* Kirk) from New Zealand. — A communication from Mr. H. M. Kyle (of St. Andrews, N.B.), contained a description of a new genus and species of Flat-fishes from New Zealand, under the name *Apsetta Thompsoni*. — Dr. A. G. Butler, F.Z.S., contributed a paper on the Butterflies lately collected, and presented to the British Museum, by Lord Delamere. The specimens had been obtained chiefly near Mount Kenya, in British East Africa, and had been referred by the author to seventy-nine species, which were enumerated in the paper. — Prof. D'Arcy W. Thompson, C.B., exhibited and described a large specimen of a Cuttle-fish (*Ancistroteuthis robusta* Steenstrup) from Unalaska. The generic position of this Cuttle-fish had previously been uncertain, owing to the absence of knowledge of the tentacular club. This was now described for the first time, and confirmed Steenstrup's provisional identification. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., described a new species of Earthworm under the name of *Amyntas Alexandri*. The specimen had been sent to him from Kew Gardens, whither it had been imported from the neighbourhood of Calcutta. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

November 28th, 1900. 1) and 2) Botanical. — 3) Studies on Australian Mollusca. Part III. By C. Hedley, F.L.S. Several molluscan genera new to Australia — *Blauneria*, *Stenothyra*, *Leuconopsis*, and *Iravadia* — are here announced, all but the first-named of these being represented by new species. A new genus is erected for the reception of *Neritula lucida*, Ad. & Angas. New marine species from New South Wales, a new snail from Queensland, and records of new habitats conclude the article. — 4) Note on an Echidna with eight Cervical Vertebrae. By R. Broom, M.D., B.Sc. In a series of skeletons of Echidna tabulated by McKay (Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. (2), ix., 1894, p. 265) considerable variation in number is shown in all the groups of vertebrae with the exception of the cervicals. In the case now described, the

eighth vertebra, which ought to be the first dorsal, is provided with a pair of quite rudimentary ribs, and is thus really a cervical vertebra. — 5) On the Ossification of the Vertebrae in the Wombat and other Marsupials. By R. Broom, M.D., B.Sc. An examination of the mode of ossification of the vertebrae in a number of types of Marsupials has revealed some interesting points. The odontoid process of the axis is ossified from a single median centre instead of from a pair as in man and probably most of the higher mammals. The 3rd-7th cervical vertebrae are ossified from three centres. The dorsal vertebrae are developed similarly to those in the higher mammals; and in the majority of Marsupials the same may be said of the lumbar vertebrae. In the Wombat (*Phascolomys Mitchelli*), however, a remarkably interesting exceptional condition is presented. The first three lumbar vertebrae are developed from three centres as in man, but the fourth differs in having well-marked autogonous transverse processes. In most Marsupials the upper caudal vertebrae have well developed autogonous transverse processes, which are undoubtedly serially homologous with the pleurapophysial centres of those vertebrae which support the pelvic bones; and, finally, the conclusion is inevitable that the autogenous transverse processes of the upper caudal vertebrae in the Marsupials are really costal elements. — Mr. T. Steel exhibited the distal half of a humerus of the extinct Marsupial, *Diprotodon australis*, Owen, from Darling Downs, Q. — Mr. Froggatt exhibited specimens of cherries from the Armidale district, showing the effect of the depredations of the Rutherglen Bug (*Nysius venator*); the pest, however, is amenable to treatment by the cyanide-fumigation process. Also commercial samples of carrot seed infested with the destructive small beetle, *Sitodrepa* (*Anobium*) *panicea*, Linn., the eggs of which were included with the seed when made up into packets. — Mr. J. J. Walker exhibited a specimen of, and contributed a short Note on, *Nacerdes melanura*, Schm., (fam. *Oedemeridae*), a European beetle not previously recorded from Australia. The individual exhibited was taken at light on board H.M.S. Ringarooma at Garden Island, Port Jackson, on November 18th. Quite recently Mr. G. C. Champion has recorded the same species from Cape Town. — Mr. J. P. Hill exhibited a Teleostean fish, an undetermined species of the viviparous genus *Cristiceps*, the ovary of which was seen to be packed with developing young. He also exhibited a series of drawings and photographs in illustration of his work during the past year on the development of Marsupials, and including photographs of the early stages in the development of *Dasyurus viverrinus;* and photographs and drawings illustrating the evolution of the external form and the condition of the foetal membranes in *Trichosurus vulpecula*, *Phascolomys Mitchelli* and *Phascolarctus cinereus*. Also, on behalf of Prof. J. T. Wilson and himself, he exhibited the egg-shells of laid eggs of *Echidna* and *Platypus*, together with photographs of *Platypus* embryos and foetal specimens from the burrow. — Mr. G. A. Waterhouse exhibited three specimens of the butterfly, *Xenica hobartia*, Westw., caught at the National Park on November 12th. Also specimens of *X. tasmanica*, Lyell, lately described from Tasmania.

Druck von Breitkopf & Härtel in Leipzig.