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Der Generalsekretär
des V. Internationalen Zoologencongresses
Matschie.

2. Zoological Society of London.

November 19th, 1901. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, September, and October 1901, and called special attention to a large series of Indian birds (all new to the Collection), which had been presented by Mr. E. W. Harper, F.Z.S. — The Secretary also stated that Col. B. Mahon, the Governor of Khordofan, had offered to present to the Society a pair of young Giraffes, which were being kept at El-Obeid awaiting the Society's instructions. — A small collection of Mammals in spirit, from Mount Ararat and the Caucasus, presented to the Society by M. Constantin Satunin, C.M.Z.S., was laid upon the table. — The Secretary exhibited some heads of Antelopes which had been obtained on the White Nile by Sir William Garstin and Major Wilkinson. Amongst them was a head of a male *Gazella ruficollis*, a scarce species. — Mr. R. Lydekker exhibited, on behalf of the President, some photographs of the antlers of Père David's Deer (*Elaphurus davidianus*), in illustration of the fact that the Stags of this species shed and renew their antlers twice annually. — Prof. E. Ray Lankester, F.R.S., read a memoir on the new African Mammal *Okapia Johnstoni*. After an account of the history of the discovery of this remarkable animal by Sir Harry Johnston, Prof. Lankester gave a description of its skull and skin, based upon the specimens forwarded to the British Museum by the discoverer, and compared its structure with that of the Giraffe and the extinct member of the same family, *Helladotherium*. The nearest living ally of the Okapi was undoubtedly the Giraffe. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas read a paper on the five-horned Giraffe obtained by Sir Harry Johnston near Mount Elgon. It was shown that, although the horns were unusually developed, the animal could not be specifically separated from the ordinary North-African Giraffe, *Giraffa camelopardalis*. This latter was believed to grade uniformly in the development of the horns and other characters into the South-African form, which would therefore be only a subspecies, *G. c. capensis*. On the other hand, de Winton's *G. c. reticulata* (from Somaliland) seemed to be sharply separated, and therefore to be worthy of recognition as a distinct species, *G. reticulata*. With regard to the accessory horns, it was shown that they, or rudiments of them, existed in all male Giraffes, even in the southern subspecies. Mr. Thomas believed that these rudimentary horns corresponded not only to the somewhat similar projections found in *Samotherium* and the Okapi, but also to the large posterior horns of *Bramotherium*, and perhaps of *Sivotherium*. If this were the case, it seemed probable that they were the degenerate rudiments of horns which had been large and functional in the Giraffe's ancestors. — Mr. J. Graham Kerr, F.Z.S.,

read some notes on the genito-urinary system in the male *Lepidosiren* and *Protopterus*, in which he gave an illustrated account of the more important anatomical features of the organs. Mr. Kerr dwelt particularly on the presence in both *Lepidosiren* and *Protopterus* of very definite remains of a testicular network, and pointed out that the presence in all three Dipnoi of the connection between the testis and the kidney gave greatly increased probability to the view that this connection is a very ancient and primitive feature of Gnathostomatous Vertebrates. Mr. Kerr also pointed out that the conditions in the Dipnoi shed considerable light upon the relations of testis and testis-duct in the Crossopterygians and the Teleosts. — A communication was read from Mr. Alfred E. Pease, M.P., F.Z.S., containing some field-notes on the Antelopes obtained during his expedition to Somaliland and Southern Abyssinia in 1900—1901. P. S. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

1) Descriptions of New Species of Australian Coleoptera. By A. M. Lea, Government Entomologist, Tasmania. — Mr. T. Steel exhibited the following specimens of interest from New Zealand:—Maori Rat, *Mus exulans*; New Zealand Frog, *Liopelma Hochstetteri*; Tuatara Lizard, *Hatteria punctata*; Lizard, *Nautilinus ornatus*; Fish, *Acanthoclinus litorius* and another little fish with sucker disc, found very abundantly under stones between tides in Auckland Harbour; Porcelain Crab, *Petrolisthes elongatus*, found in excessive abundance associated with above fishes; Fresh-water Crab, *Hymenicus varius*; Fresh-water Shells, *Potamopyrgus coralla*, *P. antipodum*, *P. cumingiana*, *P. pupoides*, *Latia neritoides*; Fresh-water Sponge, *Spongilla* (sp.?), fine large specimens from Lake Takapuna, Auckland; Pteropod, *Cavolina affinis*. — Mr. David G. Stead exhibited a portion of a hardwood wharf-pile, bored by the *Teredo* or “Ship-worm,” which had been excavated from Lower Pitt-street during the recent sewerage operations at a depth of about 12ft. Although the pile must have been embedded in the mud for a great number of years, it was in an excellent state of preservation. He also showed the ova of a large “Australian Cray-fish” (*Astacopsis serratus*, Shaw), and of *Ibacus Peronii*, a somewhat uncommon Crustacean, from Port Jackson. Also a specimen of the beautiful little *Octopus pictus*, which frequents rock-pools along our shores. — Mr. W. W. Froggatt exhibited a collection of Lac-producing Coccids of the genus *Tachardia*, containing all the Australian species except one, and all the foreign species except three. Also several undetermined native species, among them several probably new. The lac insects are well known in commerce, as from *Tachardia laeca* of India 25000 tons of lac are collected in India alone. The tests of the sexes are very distinct; those of the males are slender, thin and turned up at the apices, where the opening is covered with a thin plate. The female surrounds herself with a mass more or less rounded, in the centre of which she remains glued to the bark. Without legs or antennae, she is provided with two curious tubes on the dorsal surface known as the lac tubes. — Mr. Percy Williams exhibited a large specimen of a “Funeral Stone” from Wilcannia, together with a drawing of the same. The characters and lines were described, and the exhibitor propounded a theory that it was probably an historical record of a Chief or King of a tribe, or of a tribe itself. — Mr. G. A. Waterhouse exhibited specimens of Rhopalocera, viz.:—*Liphya brassolis*, Westw., *Casyapa beata*, Hew., *Mynes Geoffroyi*, Bois.

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