

cation from the Prosector contained some remarks on the recent death of the young male Giraffe in the Society's Gardens, in the course of which it was stated that an examination of the neck of the animal had revealed an injury to the 4th and 5th cervical vertebrae. This injury had caused the two bones to ankylose, and the bend in the neck, so noticeable in the living animal, was due to the epiphyses having grown only on one side of the bones. — Dr. Chalmers Mitchell, F.Z.S., read, on behalf of Mr. E. Degen, a paper entitled "Ecdysis, as Morphological Evidence of the original Tetradactyle Feathering of the Bird's Fore-limb, based specially on the perennial moult of *Gymnorhina tibicen*." The material on which the paper was based consisted of a large series of specimens of the *Gymnorhina* obtained at regular intervals throughout the moulting-period, and the author had thus been able to give a very complete account of the perennial replacement of the feathers, avoiding the errors due to observations on the altered habits as produced by captivity. The author showed that the moulting of the wing-feathers took place in definite groups, and indicated a composite origin of the modern feathering. He suggested that the new facts brought forward strengthened his already published theory of the wing-feathers being derived from the digital feathers of a four-fingered manus. Incidentally he suggested that the eutaxy of the Passeres was essentially different from that of such primitive birds as the Gallinae. — A communication from Prof. W. Blaxland Benham, F.Z.S., contained some notes on the osteology of the Short-nosed Sperm-Whale (*Cogia breviceps*), based on an examination of a specimen which had been washed ashore on the coast of Otago, New Zealand. The soft parts of the same specimen had formed the subject of a paper presented to the Society by the same author in May of last year. — Two additional papers on the results of the "Skeat Expedition" to the Malay Peninsula were read. The first, by Mr. F. F. Laidlaw, gave an account of the Dragon-flies (with the exception of *Agrioninae*) collected, and a list of all other species that had previously been known from the Peninsula. One new genus, *Climacobasis*, and twelve new species were described. The second paper, by Mr. W. E. Collinge, contained an account of the collection of non-operculate Land and Freshwater Mollusca made by the Expedition, and included descriptions of three new genera (*Apoparmarion*, *Paraparmarion*, and *Cryptosemelus*) and eight new species, besides contributions to the anatomy of certain species. Descriptions of three species of *Prisma* in the British Museum collection, one of which, *P. Smithi*, was new, were also in the paper. — A communication from Mr. W. F. Kirby contained a list of twenty-three species of Orthoptera, of which specimens were contained in a collection made by Sir Harry Johnston, K.C.B., in the Uganda Protectorate. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

III. Personal-Notizen.

Necrolog.

Am 15. Januar starb in Cambridge, Mass., Alpheus Hyatt, der vortreffliche Zoolog und Paläontolog. Er war am 15. April 1838 in Washington, D.C., geboren.

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