Von den eigentlich amphibischen großen Kriechthieren, die sich auf Sumatra mit den Krokodilen in die Herrschaft im Wasser theilen, ist vor Allem die in den Flüssen lebende, zu den Weichschildkröten gehörende »Labi« zu nennen, eine ungemein bissige Art, deren Schild, mit einer weichen Haut umgeben, sich an den Seiten in breiten, dicken Rändern fortsetzt. Die Malaien versuchen der Labi, wenn sie eines der ungeselligen Thiere erspähen, mit einer Stange, welche einen eisernen langen Widerhaken an der Spitze hat, so beizukommen, daß sie den Widerhaken durch den fleischigen Rand des Rückenschildes schlagen können und so die Labi trotz allen Widerstandes an Land oder in's Boot ziehen. Ich sah wiederholt dergestalt gefangene Labis und fand sie als widerwärtige Thiere. Als ich einer solchen meinen Stock, ein unzerbrechbares spanisches Rohr, hinhielt, fuhr sie mit dem schlangenartigen Kopf hervor, erfaßte den Stock mit dem hornigen, rüsselartigen Maul und hielt ihn unter bösartigem Zischen so fest, daß ich alle Kraft nöthig hatte, dem Vieh denselben wieder zu entreißen.

An den Mündungen der Flüsse und auf den langen Sandbänken derselben leben die Seeschildkröten, »Penyu« der Malaien, große, schöne Thiere, deren Eier gern gegessen werden und sehr wohlschmeckend sind. Diese Eier sind von kleiner, kugeliger Form mit weißer, weicher, pergamentartiger Schale, stets an einer Stelle eingedrückt. Man zerreißt mit leichter Mühe die Schale, streut etwas Salz auf und schlürft den großen mit nur wenig farblosem Eiweiß umgebenen Dotter heraus.

Bei dem Capitel Schildkröten seien noch kleine Landschildkröten erwähnt, »Gurra-Gurra« der Malaien, die nicht selten von den Kulis auf den Tabakplantagen beim Vorbereiten des Bodens aus festem Grund herausgehackt werden. Diese Thatsache ist mir noch jetzt unerklärlich, da es sich doch um keinen Winterschlaf, resp. um einen Schlaf über die trockene Zeit handeln kann, da auf der Ostküste Sumatra's keine eigentliche Regenzeit existiert, sondern die Niederschläge zwar in den Monaten, welche unseren Wintermonaten entsprechen, wohl häufiger sind, aber sich auch sonst über das ganze Jahr vertheilen.

II. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

November 4th, 1902. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the months of June, July, August, and September 1902, and called special attention to a Brindled Gnu (*Connochaetes taurinus*) born in the Gardens, to a pair of young Giraffes

(*Giraffa camelopardalis*), presented by Col. B. Mahon, C.B., D.S.O., and to two female Grévy's Zebras (*Equus Grevii*) deposited by His Majesty the King. — Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks upon some photographs of a Persian Ibex (*Capra aegagrus*) bearing an unusually fine pair of horns, and of the Rocky Mountain Goat (*Haplocerus montanus*), taken from specimens in the Zoological Garden of Philadelphia. — Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks upon some living larvae of the Bull-frog of North America, bred in Surrey. — Sir Henry Howorth, K.C.I.E., F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks upon the head of a Fallow Deer which showed a very curious morbid form of growth of the horns. — Mr. R. E. Holding exhibited and made remarks upon the jaw of a Domestic Sheep with an abnormal number of molar teeth. — A letter was read from the Rev. Francis C. R. Jourdain in which it was pointed out that Mr. J. G. Millais, in his paper on the occurrence of Bechstein's Bat in England (P. Z. S. 1901 [ii.] p. 216), had omitted to state that two specimens of this Bat had been taken in the New Forest in 1886. — Dr. C. W. Andrews, F.Z.S., gave an account, illustrated by lantern-slides, of the palaeontological discoveries made by himself and Mr. H. J. L. Beadnell during their recent visit to the Fayum, Egypt. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Shelford, C.M.Z.S., dealing with the Mimetic Insects and Spiders of Borneo and Singapore. — Mr. C. Tate Regan read a paper on the Classification of the Fishes of the Suborder *Plectognathi*. Mr. Regan pointed out that to the diagnosis of this Suborder "ribs absent" should be added the so-called ribs of the Balistidae, Triacanthidae (and presumably of the Triodontidae) being epipleurals. Two divisions of the Suborder were recognized—Sclerodermi, comprising the less specialized forms, which were arranged in 4 families: Triacanthidae, Triodontidae, Balistidae, and Ostraciontidae; and Gymnodontes, comprising the highly specialized Tetrodontidae, Diodontidae, and Molidae, which agreed in the abnormal structure of their pectoral arch and vertebral column. The Triodontidae were for the first time removed from the Gymnodontes and placed among the Sclerodermi. Diagnoses of the families and the genera were given. The paper concluded with descriptions of several new species, and with notes, based on specimens in the British Museum Collection. — A communication from Lt.-Col. J. M. Fawcett contained notes on the transformations of the Butterfly *Papilio dardanus* and the Moth *Philampelus megaera*, and descriptions of two new species of Moths under the names *Rabdosia clio* and *Dermaleipa daseia*. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas read a paper on the Mammals collected by Mr. Edward Degen during his recent expedition to Lake Tsana, Abyssinia. Twenty-five species were enumerated, and the following were described as new: — *Herpestes galera mitis*, distinguished by its small size and small teeth; *Lutra capensis Meneliki*, like the Cape Otter, but larger, darker, and with white underfur; *Otomys Degeni*, with one deep and one shallow groove in each upper, and two deep grooves in each lower incisor; *Arvicanthis somalicus*, a small pale form allied to *A. Neumanni*; *Pelomys Harringtoni*, with three bright buffy lines down its belly; and *Lepus Fagani*, a dark, shorteared Hare allied to *L. Whytei*. A new genus, *Muriculus*, was instituted for Rüppell's "*Mus imberbis*." — A communication was read from the Hon. Walter Rothschild, F.Z.S., in which he stated his opinion that the Elk described by Mr. Lydekker as *Alces bedfordiae* was, if not a valid species, a distinct subspecies, and not a variety as had been supposed by Mr. H. J. Elwes.

November 18th, 1902. — The Secretary read a report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of October 1902, and called special attention to seven living Land-Iguanas (*Conolophus subcristatus*) from the Galapagos, and a Fringed Gecko (*Uroplates fimbriatus*) from Madagascar, deposited by the Hon. Walter Rothschild, M.P., F.Z.S. — Dr. Henry Woodward, F.R.S., exhibited two photographs of the heads of stags of the Red Deer (*Cervus elaphus*) bred in New Zealand, lent to him for exhibition by Mr. Lewis Karslake. Dr. Woodward read an extract from a letter from Mr. D. Russell, Hon. Sec. to the Otago Acclimatization Society, giving an account of the successfull naturalization of the Red Deer in New Zealand. Two stags and six hinds had been turned out in 1868, and their offspring now numbered between 4000 and 5000 individuals. The carcases of some of these deer weighed from 500 to 600 lbs. — Mr. J. L. Bonhote exhibited some hybrid Ducks which he had bred during the past summer, and pointed out in what manner the crosses partook of their parent forms. Three of the specimens exhibited were crosses between 3 species, viz. the Indian Spotbilled Duck, the Wild Duck, and the Pintail, both the parents being themselves hybrids, thus proving, with regard to the species enumerated, that the hybrids were perfectly fertile *inter se*. — Mr. Oldfield Thomas, F.R.S., exhibited and made remarks upon a stuffed male and the skull of a female of the East-African representative of the Bongo Antelope, recently described by him as *Boocercus euryceros Isaaci* which had been obtained by Mr. F. W. Isaac in the Mau Forest and presented by him to the National Collection. — Mr. O. Thomas, F.R.S., exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Lydekker, the mounted skin of an adult male of the Peking Deer (*Cervus* [*Pseudaxis*] *hortulorum*), recently presented by the President and the Duchess of Bedford to the British Museum. Mr. Lydekker believed that an adult specimen of this fine stag had not hitherto been figured. The specimen was in full summer dress. — Dr. A. Smith Woodward, F.R.S., gave an account of excavations for the discovery of early Pliocene mammalian remains which he had recently made near Concud, in the province of Teruel, Spain. The bones had proved to be very abundant in a bed of freshwater marl, but they were in a much more fragmentary condition than those found at Pikermi, in Greece. He had discovered evidence of *Hipparion*, *Rhinoceros*, *Mastodon*, and of several small antelopes, and exhibited some jaws of the first of these genera. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., exhibited the stuffed skin of an Indian Elephant still-born in the Society's Menagerie in August last, and made some remarks thereon. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., containing a description of the Cabul race of the Markhor (*Capra Falconeri megaceros*). — Dr. Forsyth Major, F.Z.S., read a paper on the specimens of the Okapi that had recently arrived in Brussels from the Congo Free State. The author stated that these specimens, whilst presenting the same specific characters as the specimens formerly received by the Congo State authorities, showed conclusively that the male was alone provided with horns, and that the mode of their development was the same as in the Giraffe. The Okapi seemed to be a more generalized member of the Giraffidae than the Giraffe, sharing not a few features of alliance with the Upper Miocene *Palaeotragus* (*Samotherium*). In several characters it was intermediate between the Giraffe and the fossil forms; but, apart from these, some features were pointed out in which it appeared to be even more primi-

tive than its fossil relatives. These last characters went some way to support the assumption that Africa was the original home of the Giraffidae. — A communication was read from Mr. G. A. Boulenger, F.R.S., containing an account of a second collection of Fishes made by Dr. W. J. Ansorge in the Niger Delta. The species—56 in number—were enumerated, four of them being described as new. — A communication from Dr. A. Günther, F.R.S., contained a final account of the Fishes collected by the late Mr. R. B. N. Walker, C.M.Z.S., on the Gold Coast. Several new species belonging to the families *Chromidae*, *Siluridae*, and *Cyprinidae* were described.

December 2nd, 1902. — The Secretary read a report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November 1902, and called special attention to a female Equine Antelope (*Hippotragus equinus*), from Bechuanaland, presented on November 29th by Major C. F. Minchin, D.S.O. — Mr. Sclater called attention to the specimen of the Greater Bird of Paradise (*Paradisea apoda*) now living, in full plumage, in the Society's Gardens. — Mr. F. E. Beddard, F.R.S., exhibited the lower jaw of a Wombat which had died in the Society's Gardens. The molar teeth on both sides of the jaw had grown inwards so as to confine the tongue below them. — Dr. Hans Gadow, F.R.S., gave an account (illustrated by lantern-slides) of his recent expedition to Southern Mexico. He described the Valley of Mexico, and discussed the question of the Axolotls and their metamorphosis. He also gave an account of his ascent of the Volcano of Orizaba, and of the two types of *tierra caliente* met with on the Atlantic and Pacific slopes, and pointed out the various phases of animal life met with in these different localities. — Dr. Einar Lönnberg, C.M.Z.S., contributed a series of notes, illustrated by photographs, of the variations observed in the Elk in Sweden, more especially as regards the form of the antlers. These the Author classed in three groups—"palmate," "intermediate," and "cervine." The last were comparable to the type lately described as *Alces Bedfordiae*. These differences, in the Author's opinion, were not attributable either to age or to degeneration; neither did they seem to indicate racial distinction. — A communication was read from Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., calling attention to a photograph of a skull and antlers of a Reindeer obtained by Mr. H. J. Pearson in Novaia Zemlia. On account of the palmation of the antlers differing markedly from that of the known races of the Reindeer, Mr. Lydekker was of opinion that the specimens belonged to a new race, which he accordingly named *Rangifer tarandus Pearsoni*. — Mr. H. R. Hogg, F.Z.S., read a paper on the Australian Spiders of the subfamily *Sparassinae*. It contained descriptions of twenty-five new species and a list of those previously known. Two of the species were made types of new genera, for which the names *Neosparassus* and *Eodelena* were proposed. — A communication from Mr. W. F. Lanchester contained an account of the Crustaceans of the groups Anomura, Cirripedia, and Isopoda (marine forms) collected during the "Skeat Expedition" to the Malay Peninsula in 1899—1900. — A communication from Mr. F. F. Laidlaw contained an account of the Dragonflies of the Subfamily *Caenagrioninae* collected during the "Skeat Expedition" to the Malay Peninsula. *Prosticta Foersteri* and *Teinobasis Kirbyi* were described as new species, and it was pointed out that the former belonged to a genus hitherto known only from the Philippines and Celebes. — Mr. R. I. Pocock, F.Z.S., described a new species of Marine

Spider, discovered by Mr. Cyril Crossland in Zanzibar, under the name *Desis Crosslandi*. — Mr. Pocock also read a paper containing descriptions of twenty new species of Harvest-Spiders of the Order Opiliones from the Southern Continents. Two of these formed the types of the new genera *Sorensenella* and *Lomanella*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

October 29th, 1902. — 1) On two remarkable Sporocysts occurring in *Mytilus latus*, on the Coast of New Zealand. By W. A. Haswell, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S., Challis Professor of Biology, University of Sydney. — One of these is the Sporocyst stage of a species of *Echinostomum*; the other that of a *Gasterostomum*. Both are bright red in colour. In the former the Cercariae are nourished, when the alimentary canal becomes fully formed, by globules given off from the cells lining the interior of the Sporocyst, and the mature Cercaria, when it escapes, carries with it a small stock of this food-matter in its intestine. The structure and development of the Cercaria are desrcibed. The second Sporocyst presents the appearance of bright red branching filaments extending in all directions through the tissues of the Mussel. The Cercaria is a *Bucephalus*, the larva of a *Gasterostomum*. — 2)—5) Botanical. — 6) On the Mammalian and Reptilian Vomerine Bones. By R. Broom, M.D., B.Sc., C.M.Z.S. The author shows that in the early stages of development the nasal capsules of the lizard and marsupial are essentially similar in structure, and that in both a well developed paraseptal cartilage runs by the base of the septum from the nasal floor cartilage in front to the hinder part of the capsule. He also shows that the so-called "vomer" in the lizard develops in connection with this cartilage; and as the dumbbell-chaped bone in *Ornithorhynchus* and the median bone of *Miniopterus* also develop as splints to the paraseptal cartilages (specialised as cartilages of Jacobson) he concludes that these mammalian bones are homologous with the so-called "vomers" of the lizard, and are therefore really "prevomers". The median vomer of the mammal is regarded as the homologue of the reptilian and amphibian "parasphenoid", as they are median splint bones developed along the basicranial axis. The Theriodont *Gomphognathus* is shown to have a large median vomer of mammalian type, and a pair of prevomers somewhat after the manner of *Ornithorhynchus*. The Dicynodonts are shown to have only the median true vomer developed, and in this agreeing with the Chelonians. In the higher mammals, as a rule, Jacobson's cartilage is supported by the palatine process of the premaxillary, but though the process occupies the exact situation of the prevomer it is argued that the palatine process has replaced the prevomer rather than that it represents that element. — Mr. Froggatt exhibited specimens of the curious coccid, *Frenchia casuarinae*, Mask., recently found by him on casuarinas, near Condobolin, N.S.W.; the species was originally described from the Wimmera district, Victoria, and is now recorded for the first time from New South Wales. Also specimens of the larvae of the pine-scrub beetle (*Diadoxus erythrurus*) recently collected from dead or dying Currawong bushes (*Acacia doratoxylon*) on the ranges about the Lachlan River beyond Condobolin. As living trees are to be found side by side with dead or dying ones, and as some of the latter may yield as many as half a dozen larvae, Mr. Froggatt expressed his belief that in the locality mentioned the destruction of the trees was attributable to the insects, and not to the drought.

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