

mer, d. h. Turbellarien, denselben Modus zeigen, so wird man wohl die Schlussfolgerung, dass die intracelluläre Verdauung eine ursprüngliche Erscheinung bei Metazoen bildet und auch bei den Urahnen der letzteren die Regel war, rechtfertigen. Eine derartige Verdauungsweise setzt aber durchaus nicht nothwendig eine besondere Verdauungshöhle voraus, welche demnach als eine secundär erworbene Bildung angesehen werden muss. Von diesem Gesichtspuncte aus lassen sich viele ontogenetische Erscheinungen bei Coelenteraten erklären, welche mit der Gastraeatheorie nicht in Einklang gebracht werden können, wie es in einer nächsten Publication von mir gezeigt werden soll.

Den 24. April 1880.

III. Mittheilungen aus Instituten, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

6th April, 1880. — The Secretary, some extracts from letters which he had received from Mr. W. A. Conklin, of New York, relating to the birth of an Elephant which had lately taken place in a travelling Menagerie at Philadelphia. — Prof. T. H. Huxley, F.R.S., read a paper on the distinctive characters of the species of the genus *Canis*, as shown in certain points of the structure of their skulls and in the proportions of their teeth. — Dr. Francis Day read a paper on the Fishes of Afghanistan, based principally upon a collection which had been made for him in the highlands of Kelat and Quettah, by Dr. Duke. — A communication was read from Prof. Julius Von Haast, F.R.S., containing a description of a specimen of a rare Ziphioid Whale (*Epiodon novae-zealandiae*), which had been cast ashore at New Brighton, New Zealand, in July, 1878. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

1st April, 1880. — Only two short zoological papers were read viz.: — Description of a new genus (*Pyramocera*) of moth of the family Liparidae from Madagascar by A. G. Butler and a notice of marine crustaceans collected by P. Geddes at Vera Cruz, by Edw. J. Miers. The Vera Cruz Crustacea included: — a female and immature male of a species of *Panopeus*: examples of *Pachygrapsus socius*, which is very probably merely a variety of *P. transversus* as it is distinguished only by the absence of the dark patch on the immobile finger, which is always present in the typical *P. transversus*; and a series of females of a species of *Pinnotheres*, possibly the *P. angelicus* of Lockington.

15th April, 1880. — On the Mollusca of the 'Challenger' Expedition (part 5), by the Rev. E. Boog Watson was read. The author observes that temperature even more than mere depth seems an important condition in molluscan life, while both prove barriers to distribution, though great length of time naturally helps escape from these barriers. Where barriers of depth and temperature do not check distribution there is no limit to universality of distribution, and such is the case with certain existing species; still there is no trace of special lasting and progressive change. Some 35 species are described whereof nearly all are new forms, and they respectively belong to the families Solenoconchia, Trochida, Rissoellidae, Litorinidae, and Cerithiidae. — Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell read a note on an abnormal (Quadriradiate) specimen of *Amblypneustes formosus* and afterwards Mr. Chas. Stewart exhibited and made Remarks on another but differently abnormal specimen of the same species. Prof. Bell after fully describing the specimen in question observes; — that with more or less reason some naturalists have looked on the possession of other than five rays as a character of some specific value among the Asteridae and Ophiurida, and have considered that on account of its greater rarity among the latter it is of greater value as a mark of distinction; but such a view must be taken with considerable limitation. The pentamerous arrangement of parts in the regular Echinoidea is there only disturbed in one example; information and specimens are, however, at hand to show how this may have happened. The rarity of any divergence from the five part division, in face of the numerous variations which occur in the Echinodermata will doubtless become more and more important as a factor in determining the genealogical history of the group. — A series of microscopic sections of pearls exhibiting many irregularities in structural detail were shown by Dr. J. Murie and their peculiarities explained. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Necrolog.

Am 25. Januar starb zu Penzance im Alter von 70 Jahren Mr. Edw. Hearle Rodd, Advocat, der sich große Verdienste um die Kenntniss der Ornithologie von Cornwall und den Scilly Inseln erworben hat.

Auf der Insel Montserrat, West-Indien, in Olveston Hall, starb, 34 Jahre alt, Mr. John Edmund Sturge, welcher mit großem Erfolge die Ornithologie jener Insel zu erforschen begonnen hatte.

In der Nacht vom 3. zum 4. Mai starb zu Odessa Wlad. Schmankewitsch, Lehrer der Naturgeschichte an der Odessaer Realschule. Er war am 15./27. Juli 1839 geboren, war nach Beendigung seiner Studien an einem Seminar in Podolien als Lehrer thätig, wurde 1866 in Odessa immatriculirt und erlangte 1870 den Grad eines Candidaten der Naturwissenschaften. Vom Jahre 1871 an hat er mehrere, besonders auf niedere Thiere bezügliche Arbeiten veröffentlicht. Unwohlsein und Kränkungen seines reizbaren Ehrgefühls in seiner amtlichen Stellung führten ihn leider zum Selbstmord.

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