

III. Mittheilungen aus Instituten, Gesellschaften etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

4th January, 1881. — Mr. Sclater exhibited and made remarks on a skin of the Southern Merganser (*Mergus australis*), from the Auckland Islands belonging to the collection of Baron Anatole von Hügel. — Professor A. Newton, M. A., F. R. S., exhibited on behalf of Professor Alphonse Milne-Edwards, F. M. Z. S., an egg of *Cariama cristata*, laid last summer in the Jardin des Plantes, and possibly the first ever seen of which the parentage was certainly known, though an egg, also exhibited by Professor Newton, had been for many years in the collection of Mr. H. F. Walter. — Dr. Albert Günther, F. R. S., read an account of the zoological collections made by Dr. R. W. Coppinger, R. N., during the survey of H. M. S. „Alert“ in the Straits of Magellan, and on the coast of Patagonia, and called attention to the most remarkable species represented in the various groups, which had been worked out by himself and his assistants in the Zoological Department of the British Museum. Dr. Günther also called attention to several interesting cases of the similarity of forms in these collections to known forms of the Arctic Regions and of the Australian Seas. — A communication was read from Professor J. O. Westwood, containing the descriptions of some new exotic species of Moths of the genera *Castnea* and *Saturnia*. — A second paper by Professor Westwood contained observations on two Indian Butterflies, — *Papilio castor* and *P. polhuæ*. — Professor W. H. Flower, F. R. S., described the skull of a very large Elephant Seal (*Macrorhinus leoninus*), lately received in the Museum of the College of Surgeons from the Falkland Islands, and discussed the questions of affinities and systematic position of this animal among the Pinnipeds. Professor Flower arrived at the conclusion from an examination of its dental, cranial, and limb characters, and from some other points in its anatomy, that the Elephant Seal is the member of the group the farthest removed from the terrestrial carnivora and showing most cetacean analogies. He also considered that at present there is no evidence of the existence of more than one species of the genus. — Dr. A. Günther read some notes on the species of Insectivorous Mammals belonging to the genus *Rhynchocyon* and *Petrodromus*, and described two new species of the former genus, proposed to be called *R. macrurus* (from the Rovuma river), and *R. chrysopygus* (from the Mombaça river). — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Notiz.

Aus dem New Britannia Archipel ist dem Museum Godeffroy neuerdings eine inhaltreiche Sendung des Reisenden Th. Kleinschmidt zugegangen, aus der sich interessante Doubletten an Säugethiern, Vögeln und Eiern, Reptilien, Amphibien und Insecten ergeben werden.

Hamburg, 24. Januar 1881.

J. D. E. Schmeltz,
Custos am Museum Godeffroy.

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