

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

13th December, 1881. — The Secretary read a Report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of November, 1881, and called attention to certain interesting accessions which had been received during that period. — Mr. Slater exhibited and made remarks on two skins of a Rail from Macquarie Island, south of New Zealand, which had been sent to him by Sir George Grey, K.C.B., F.Z.S. — Mr. H. Seebohm, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on specimens of the Rusty Grackle (*Scolecophagus ferrugineus*) and Pallas's Great Grey Shrike (*Lanius major*), which had been shot near Cardiff, and were new to the British avifauna. — A communication was read from Mr. Clements R. Markham, F.R.S., containing an account of his researches into the former Whale-Fishery of the Basque Provinces of Spain. — Messrs. J. J. Lister and J. J. Fletcher read a paper on the condition of the median portion of the vaginal apparatus in the Macropodidae, in which they arrived at the following conclusions: — 1) In the Macropodidae the median vaginal canal is closed in early life. 2) In the genera *Macropus*, *Halmaturus* and *Petrogale* (and perhaps also *Dorcopsis* and *Dendralogus*) an opening is formed, leading directly from the median vaginal canal into the urogenital sinus, which opening most probably gives passage to the young. This opening may be formed early in life, as is usual in the genus *Halmaturus*, or not till young are about to be produced, as in *Macropus rufus*. 3) The evidence with regard to *Macropus major* is conflicting: in one case the median canal has been found open after parturition, and in two others closed. 4) In *Hypsiprymnus Gaimardi* (and probably also *H. murinus*) the median canal remains closed, and the young passes down the lateral vaginal canals, which present a different structure from that found in the other examples of the Macropodidae. — A communication was read from the Rev. Canon Tristram, containing the description of a new Fruit-Pigeon of the genus *Carpophaga*, from the Louisiade Archipelago, which he proposed to name *Carpophaga Salvadorii*. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

November 3, 1881. — Prof. J. S. Cobbold exhibited under the microscope about a hundred eggs of *Bilharzia haematobia*. They were taken from a Gentleman who had just arrived from Egypt and who was the victim of haematuria, induced by the parasites in question, and supposed to have been contracted during a hunting expedition. By adding water nearly all the eggs were hatched during the meeting of the Society and the rare opportunity was thus afforded of witnessing the behaviour of the newly born ciliated animalcules. — Mr. R. MacLachlan exhibited and made remarks on a parthenogenetically-bred beetle (*Gastrophysa raphani*). The specimen had been the second reared by Dr. J. A. Osborne in Ireland. The egg which produced it was one of a batch of 42 laid by a virgin female on the 14th June and was hatched on the 24th. Moults occurred on the 1st and 5th July, meta-

morphosis to pupa 14th July, and the imago appeared on the 23d July. — A Description of some New Birds from the Solomon Islands and New Britain, by Edward P. Ramsay of Sydney, was then read by the Secretary. The new species are: *Ceyx sacerdotis*, *Pomarea* (*Monarcha*) *ugiensis*, *Calornis feadensis*, *Carpophaga Finschii*, *Baza Gurneyi*, and *Astur pulchellus*.

November 17, 1881. — Dr. Francis Day showed examples of the stomachs of the pilchard with special reference to their digestion. These fishes come in shore on the Cornish coast towards night to feed, when they are netted. Examination shortly after reveals the *Zoëa* stage of crustaceans to be their chief food. While this lies loosely in portions of the stomach, at the pyloric division it appears to be enclosed within a sac, or sausage-shaped envelope. Microscopic examination proves the sac to be a cast-off lining of the stomach walls. What purpose it serves in the economy of digestion is uncertain, though it bears resemblance to the sac vomited by hornbills during incubation. — Sir J. Lubbock read his ninth communication »On Ants, Bees, and Wasps.« He commenced by detailing some experiments made with a view of ascertaining not only whether bees could distinguish one colour from another, but also whether they preferred certain colours. Under precisely similar conditions he placed drops of honey on papers of different colours, having accustomed marked bees to come to the spot for food. He then placed these pieces of paper on a lawn. When the bee returned and had sipped the honey for about a quarter of a minute he removed it. She then flew to a second colour; this he took away. Then she went to a third, and soon. In this manner he induced her to visit all the drops successively; and, by recording a large number of observations, he ascertained for which colour the bees showed a preference. The result was that the bee seemed to like blue much better than the other colours. It may be asked why it is that, if blue is the favourite colour of bees, and if bees have so much to do with the origin of flowers, there should be so few blue ones. He suggests the explanation to be that all flowers were originally green, and then passed through white or yellow, and generally red, before becoming blue. — Dr. Cobbold described a new Entozoon from the Ostrich, which he named *Strongylus Douglasii*. By information received from Mr. Arthur Douglas, of Heatherton Towers, near Grahamstown, it was shown that this parasite proves very destructive to Ostrich chicks, its action being similar to that of *Strongylus pergracilis* which occasions grouse disease. The Ostrich worm bears remarkably few eggs, in this way resembling certain free nematodes. For its destruction Dr. Cobbold recommended the Cape farmers to try the new worm remedy called milk of papaw (*Carica papaya*). — J. Murie.

3. Società Entomologica Italiana in Firenze.

Adun. del di 26 Ottobre. 1881. — Cavanna e Piccioli, Mostro-uità (melomelia) in una femmina ad elite liscie del *Dytiscus marginalis*. — Camerano, Ancora del *Sinoxylon muricatum* in Piemonte. — Simonetta, I Pediculini del Museo di Pavia. — Curò, Aggiunte al Catalogo dei Lepidotteri d'Italia. — G. Cavanna, Secret.

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