Wasser saugen und dabei wieder ganz weich werden, so dass man im Stande ist, an einem aufgeweichten Präparat oder Thier genau so leicht zu präpariren wie an einem frischen Thier oder Spirituspräparat. Ich bezweifle, dass eine nennenswerthe Menge Terpentin bei der Verdunstung desselben zurückbleibt.

Herr Riehm hält die Methode ferner für wenig kostspielig; ich meinerseits finde ganz im Gegentheil nach nun reichlich dreijähriger Erfahrung, dass sie recht sehr kostspielig ist. Sie erfordert viel Zeit und viel Material. Ganz verloren ist dieses letztere allerdings nicht; man kann den wässerig gewordenen Alcohol überdestilliren und wieder gebrauchen für die erste Entwässerung. Dagegen möchte ich warnen vor einem zu lang fortgesetzten Gebrauch des Terpentins. Nach etwa dreimaligem Gebrauch muss ich ihn weggießen, da eine Destillation desselben oder sonst wie vorzunehmende Reinigung entweder unmöglich oder viel zu kostspielig ist.

Manche sehen in der Farblosigkeit der Präparate einen Nachtheil; für mich ist sie ein Vortheil. Der Werth der Gestalt eines Organs wird durch die modellhafte Weiße gehoben; die Farbe beeinträchtigt die plastische Wirkung. Will man übrigens denselben Präparaten annähernd die Farbe von Spirituspräparaten oder bei ganzen Thieren nahezu die natürliche Färbung wiedergeben, so braucht man sie nur in eine von meinem Präparator Hoch seit langen Jahren gebrauchte Mischung von Glycerin und Zuckerlösung zu werfen. Dann saugen sie sich voll und werden weich; zugleich aber treten alle nicht durch die frühere Behandlung zerstörten Pigmente wieder hervor. Sind die Präparate hinreichend durchtränkt, so kann man sie trocken aufbewahren; Schnecken, Tritonen, Regenwürmer etc. sehen dann fast wie lebend aus. Eben so kann man die weißen Trockenpräparate mit willkürlich gewählten Farben schematisch anmalen, um Details auf dem weißen Grunde der Theile recht deutlich hervorzuheben; sie nehmen sowohl Honigfarben als auch Ölfarben an.

## 2. Zoological Society of London.

7th February, 1882. — Mr. Henry Seebohm, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on a series of Goldfinches (obtained at Krasnoyarsk in Central Asia) which presented every form of transition between *Carduelis major* and *Carduelis caniceps*. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Peter Inchbald, F.Z.S., two curious hybrid Ducks, obtained on some ornamental water near Darlington. — Mr. St. George Mivart read a paper on the Classification and Distribution of the *Aeluroidea*. He regarded this suborder as best divisible into three families — (1) *Felidae*, (2) *Viverridae*, (3) *Hyaenidae*. The *Felidae* he proposed to subdivide into but two genera, *Felis* and *Cynaelurus*, the *Viverridae* into the five subfamilies (1) *Viverrinae*,

(2) *Galidictinae*, (3) *Euplerinae*, (4) *Cryptoproctinae*, and (5) *Herpestinae*. The *Hyaenidae* were referred to two subfamilies — (1) *Protelinae* and (2) *Hyaeninae*. The Author regarded *Cryptoprocta* as a true Viverrine animal, attaching but very little importance to dental characters save as discriminating species and genera. The *Galidictinae* were arranged to include the genera *Galidictis*, *Galidia*, and *Hemigalidia*, the last-named genus having been instituted for the species previously known as *Galidia olivacea* and *Galidia concolor*. — Mr. W. A. Forbes read a paper on some points in the anatomy of the Indian Darter (*Plotus melanogaster*), and gave a description of the mechanism of the neck in this genus in connexion with the habits of the birds. — A communication was read from Prof. P. Martin Duncan, F.R.S., containing descriptions of some recent Corals collected by Mr. J. Y. Johnson at a few fathoms depth in the sea off Funchal, Madeira. — Mr. Stuart O. Ridley read a paper on the arrangement of the Coralliidae, and gave a review of the genera and species of this family, which contains the Red Corals. The description of a new species obtained at the Mauritius was given, as well as of an interesting, but probably not new, form, said to come from Japan. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 3. Linnean Society of London.

2. February, 1882. — An Extract from a letter by Mr. Thomas Edward was read, and portion of a specimen shown of a supposed rare Marine Animal. It was caught alive on a line by a fisherman a few miles out from the Banffshire coast. As first observed it was about 9 inches long, 1 inch broad flattened and eel-like in shape with tapering ends, and it then was of a dark drab colour, with lighter edges. Ordinarily sluggish, at times it swam rapidly round the dish in which it was placed. It stained the water yellow, and latterly threw off joint-like pieces from its hinder extremity. From examination of the object, and microscopical sections Dr. Murie identified it as belonging to the Nemerteans, apparently *Cerebratulus angulatus* O. F. Müll. — a form which Dr. MacIntosh (Monog. Ray Soc.) says is found »generally in deep water throughout the British Coasts« though hitherto seldom seen alive by naturalists. — Mr. E. M. Holmes exhibited specimens of a new blistering insect from Madagascar belonging to the genus *Epicauta*, and allied to *E. ruficollis*. It had been brought to this country by Dr. W. Parkes, physician to the Queen of Madagascar. — A communication from Major General Benson was read, in this referring to Dr. Cobbold's use of the name *Fasciola Jacksoni* for certain flukes obtained from the Elephant. These had been described by Major Gen. Benson in 1867 in the Rangoon Times where an account of the epizootic outbreak was first given. Dr. Cobbold explained that the initials of the author having alone been appended to the article in question it consequently had received less attention than it would otherwise have had. To Major Gen. Benson certainly belongs the credit of having first directed attention to the Elephant mortality from the said species of fluke; though the worm was first discovered by Jackson 20 years before the Rangoon letter appeared, namely in 1847. — A paper was read on animal Intelligence by Mr. Otto Tepper. He described instances under his own observation of Cats regularly unfastening the latch of a door to obtain entrance; and in the case of certain species of ants watched by himself their