

2. Zoological Society of London.

6th June, 1882. The Secretary called the attention of the Meeting to the curious way in which the young Cormorants lately hatched in the Gardens were fed by the parent birds; and exhibited a drawing by Mrs. Hugh Blackburn illustrating this subject. — A communication was read from Prof. St. George Mivart, F.R.S., containing a series of observations on certain points in the anatomy of the Cat-tribe (*Aeluroides*). — Mr. Howard Saunders read a paper on some *Laridae* collected by Capt. H. H. Markham, R.N., on the coasts of Peru and Chili; comprising, amongst other rarities, the third known example of the large Fork-tailed Gull (*Xema furcatum*), a species which had been vainly sought for on the Pacific coast of America for upwards of thirty years. The author drew attention to the peculiarities distinguishing the various species of Gulls found in the Pacific from those of the rest of the globe; and pointed out that, owing to oceanic currents, the connexion between the species now only found on opposite sides of the equator had evidently been much more recent in the Pacific than in the Atlantic. — Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell read a paper containing an attempt to apply a method of formulation to the species of the *Comatulidae*, and added the description of a new species, which he proposed to call *Actinometra annulata*. — Mr. Francis Day, F.Z.S., read some notes on the supposed identity of a specimen of a fish determined by Dr. Günther as *Anguilla Kieneri* with a Gadoid *Lycodes*. — Mr. E. J. Miers read the second portion of his paper on the Crustaceans received by the British Museum from the Mauritius; and called special attention to what appeared to be a variety of *Palinurus longimanus* of the West Indies which occurred in it. — Mr. W. A. Forbes read the fifth of his series of papers on the anatomy of Passerine birds. The present communication was devoted to the consideration of the structure of the genus *Orthonyx*, which was shown to be a true Oscinine form. — Mr. H. J. Elwes exhibited and made remarks on a Stonechat (*Saxicola*) which he had obtained during a recent expedition to the Aures Mountains of Algeria. — The Secretary exhibited a series of the diurnal and nocturnal Lepidopterous insects bred in the Insect House in the Gardens during the present season. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of London.

4th May, 1882. — Sir J. Lubbock, Bart., F.R.S., President in the Chair. — A Resolution of Council was read embodying the Society's sense of the loss sustained by the death of Mr. Chas. Darwin, and expressing sympathy with the family in their bereavement. — A paper was read on the discovery of Remains of the Great Auk (*Alca impennis*) in the Island of Oronsay, Argyllshire, by Mr. Symington Grieve. A series of wing and leg bones of this bird were obtained along with a various assortment of remnants of Guillemot, Red Deer, Marten, Otter, Sheep, Rat, Rabbit, Common Seal, Pig, Wrasse, Mullet, Skate, Crabs and several Kinds of Mollusks. These were dug out of a large cone shaped Mound, believed by the author at one time to have been occupied by Man. Remains of the Gare fowl have only once before been recorded as found in Britain. — A communication followed by Mr. P. H. Gosse dealing with the Clasping Organs

auxiliary of the generative parts in certain groups of the Lepidoptera. After mention of mode of manipulation and general remarks on the subject the author describes the Organs in question and there takes cognisance of the apparatus as modified in many species of *Ornithoptera* and *Papilio*.

1st June, 1882.—Frank Crisp, L.L.B., Treasurer, in the Chair. — The following preparations were shown under the Microscope by Dr. Hoggan in illustration of his paper. »On some cutaneous Nerve terminations in Mammals«: — 1. Longitudinal and transverse views of the Organ of Eimer in the Mole, the nerves seen being representatives of the nerves upon an ordinary hair follicle. 2. Forked nerve termination on hair follicle of mole's tail. 3. Nerve endings in nose of Cat. 4. Termination of a nerve in the ganglion cells upon a »Feeler« hair in the Horse, and that of an ordinary hair in the same showing forked and cellular endings and encircling fibres. Dr. Hoggan related his observations on the habits of a mole (*Talpa*) kept in confinement, more particularly concerning its nasal organ as a special sense of touch and of the tail as a tactile organ. He compared the development of the nerve in these with the cutaneous nerve structures of other mammalia, dealing with the effects of habit in causing evolution of the so-called »organ of Eimer«. Treating in detail of the differentiation of structure and function in this latter he summed up as follows: — The central fibrils in the organ in question and the nerve cells at the base with which they are continuous are similar in character to the subepidermic nerve cells and their intraepidermic fibrillar prolongations. The outer circle of fibrils have equally their existence and nature explained as well as the cause of their being dragged into their present position in the epiderm. Then as relates to function Eimer was certainly correct, or at all events within the truth when he spoke of the organ he had discovered in the mole as a »tactile instrument«, for it certainly possesses most remarkable powers of touch but along with this other sensorial functions. Indeed it may be considered very probable that the inner circle of fibrils are the analogues and homologues of the forked endings and that they provide for the sense of touch, while the centre fibrils and those of the outer circle provide for the sense of temperature, pain and any functions connected with the sympathetic nerve system. The Pacin an bodies at the root of the organ, but not properly connected with it are probably the agents for registering pressure so that in itself the organ of Eimer is completely provided with the full armament of peripheral nerve terminations.

A paper was read on the Ascidians collected on the S. Coast of England during the Cruise of the yacht »Glimpse« in the year 1881, by Mr. H. C. Sorby and Prof. W. A. Herdman. Particulars were given respecting twelve species of simple Ascidians, one of these being a new form of *Molgula* dredged in Hole's Bay near Poole and named by the authors *M. cepaeformis*. Only a few compound Ascidians were obtained during the cruise.

Mr. P. Herbert Carpenter by Descriptions of new or little known Comatulæ, being material derived from the »Challenger« Expedition and from the Hamburg Museum. These comprise; — three species of *Atelecrinus*, one *A. Wyvilli*, a new form dredged near the Fiji Islands; four species of *Ophiocrinus* (= *Eudiocrinus* n. g.) three of which are new; nine species of *Antedon* of which eight are new; and seven species of *Actinometra*, two of these being hitherto unknown. The author institutes

the new genus *Eudiocrinus* for Semper's *Ophiocrinus*, the latter name having been preoccupied for an obscure Crinoid described by Salter from the Devonian formation of south Africa. — J. Murie.

4. Società Entomologica Italiana.

Adunanza del giorno 25. Maggio 1882. Targioni Tozzetti, Sulla necessità di dimostrare la reale esistenza dell' uovo d'inverno della Fillossera nelle viti europee. — Notizie sulla Fillossera in Italia. — Bargagli, Note sulla biologia dei *Lixus*, *Larinus* e di una *Scaphia*. — Passerini, Nap., Gli organi glandulari ventrali del *Geophilus Gabrielis*. — Ricerche sulla pelle dei Miriapodi. — Catani, Cenno storico sulla classificazione degli Ortoteri. — Stefanelli, *Biston florentinus*, nuova forma di *B. graecarius* Staud. — Sopra Libellulidi dei dintorni di Firenze. — Cavanna, Presentazione degli Artropodi da lui raccolti a Lavajano, presso Pisa, e studiati da vari entomologi (Aracnidi, Simon: Ortoteri, Targioni: Coleotteri, Piccioli, Baudi, Cavanna: Emitteri, Cavanna, Ferrari, Puton, Carobbi: Imenotteri, Magretti: Miriapodi, Latzel, con la nuova specie *Lithobius tylops*). — Berlese, Nuovi acari. — Mayer, Annunzio di studi sugli insetti del fico. — Lorenzini, Buoni risultati della carbolina adoperata come insettifuga nelle Collezioni. — Magretti, Varietà ed anomalie in Tentredini. — Lichtenstein, Note su Coccidi. — Cavanna, Annunzia il trovamento di esemplari del *Plutonium Zwierleini* a Taormina, e di un' individuo della stessa specie sul continente (a Cava dei Tirreni per opera del prof. A. Costa). — Effetto nullo delle luci colorate sullo schiudimento delle uova di *Bombyx mori*. — Targioni Tozzetti presenta rami di tiglio ricoperti dal *Coccus tiliae*, di Viti infestate dalla *Pollinaria vitis* — Presenta i Crostacei ed i Miriapodi raccolti durante il viaggio di S.A.R. il Principe Tommaso, e quelli riportati dal socio Ragazzi, medico della R. Marina: accenna alle specie più notevoli, e tratta in special modo di una *Scolopendra* di Giava, forte nuova. — Il Segretario G. Cavanna.

5. Notizen.

Die American Association for the Advancement of Science hält ihre 31. Jahresversammlung am 23. August 1882 in Montreal, Canada. Präsident ist J. W. Dawson. Anfragen und Meldungen sind an Dr. T. Sterry Hunt in Montreal, Canada, zu richten. Für die Fahrt von Liverpool nach Quebec und zurück gewährt die Allan Line Billets zu \$ 100, die Beaver Line Billets zu \$ 80, und die Dominion Line 25 Billets zu \$ 80.

Die British Association for the Advancement of Science eröffnet ihre 52. Versammlung am 23. August 1882 in Southampton. Der neugewählte Präsident ist Dr. C. W. Siemens. Am 25. August Abends wird Prof. H. N. Moseley einen Vortrag über pelagisches Leben halten.

Berichtigung.

Die Figur 4 auf p. 286, No. 112 (Aufsatz von Prof. Claus), ist aus Versehen umgekehrt eingesetzt worden.

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