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2. Zoological Society of London.

3th April, 1883. — The Secretary read some extracts from a letter he had received from Mr. J. Sarbo in reference to the Gayal. The writer observed that *Bos gaurus* (the Gaur) and not *Bos frontalis* (the Gayal) is the Wild Ox of Assam, and that the *B. frontalis* is not known in a wild state, but only as a semi-domesticated animal owned by various wild tribes from Assam to Arracan. — Mr. Sclater called the attention of the Meeting to the skin of a Brown Crow from Australia, which had been sent to him for examination by Mr. Albert A. C. Le Souef, C.M.Z.S., and which he was inclined to regard as a variety in plumage of *Corvus australis*. — Mr. A. G. Butler read a paper containing an account of a collection of Indian Lepidoptera made by Lieut.-Col. Charles Swinhoe, chiefly at Kurrachee, Solun, and Mhow. Thirty-two new species were described, and numerous field-notes by Col. Swinhoe were incorporated in the paper. — Col. J. A. Grant read some notes on the Zebra met with by the Speke and Grant Expedition in the interior of Central Africa in 1860—63, which certainly belonged either to the true Zebra (*Equus zebra*) or to its closely allied northern form, the recently described *Equus Grevyi*. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

3. Linnean Society of London.

19th April, 1883. — A paper was read by Sir John Lubbock ‚On the sense of Colour among some of the Lower Animals'. He said, some years ago M. Paul Bert made a series of interesting experiments with the common daphnia or water flea which is so abundant in our ditches and pools; he exposed them to light of different colours and he thought himself justified in concluding from his observations that their limits of vision at both ends of the spectrum are the same as our own being limited by the red at one end and the violet at the other. In a previous communication Sir John Lubbock showed that on the contrary they are not insensible to the ultra violet rays and that at that end of the spectrum their eyes were affected by light which we were unable to perceive. These experiments have recently been repeated by M. Merezkowski who however maintains that though the Daphnias prefer the yellow rays which are the brightest of the spectrum they are in fact attracted not by the colour but by the brightness; that — while conscious of the intensity of the light they have no power to distinguish colours. Given an animal which prefers the brightest rays, it may seem difficult to distinguish between a mere preference for light itself rather than for any particular colour. To test this however Sir John Lubbock took porcelain troughs about an inch deep 8 inches long and 3 broad. In these he put 50 daphnias: and then in a darkened chamber threw upon them an electric spectrum arranged so that on each side of a given line the light was equal, and he found that an immense majority of the Daphnias preferred the green to the red end of the spectrum. Again to select one out of many experiments he took four troughs and covered one half of the 1st with a yellow solution, $^1/_2$ of the 2nd with a green solution, $^1/_2$ of the 3d with an opaque plate and he threw over one $^1/_2$ of the fourth a certain amount of extra light by means of a mirror. He then found that in the first trough a

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