

species of Cormorant, apparently the Pygmy Cormorant (*Phalacrocorax pygmaeus*), purchased January 31st, and said to have been received from Sierra Leone. — Mr. Sclater laid on the table and made some remarks on a copy of the lately issued Guide to the »Calcutta Zoological Gardens«. — Mr. W. T. Blanford, F.R.S., made some observations on the collection of drawings of Himalayan Birds lately presented to the Society's Library by Brian H. Hodgson, Esq., F.Z.S. — Prof. F. Jeffrey Bell read the second part of his contribution to the systematic arrangement of the Asteroidea. In the present communication the author treated of the species of the genus *Oreaster*. — A communication was read from Mr. Fernand Lataste, C.M.Z.S., containing the description of a new species of Gerbille from Arabia. This new species was founded on specimens living in the Society's Gardens, which had been hitherto referred to *Gerbillus erythrurus* Gray. M. Lataste considered the species to be undescribed, and proposed to call it *Meriones longifrons*. — A communication was read from Mr. J. Wood-Mason, F.Z.S., in which he gave the description of a new species of the Neuropterous genus *Corydalis*. The first example of this insect (a female) was captured by Lieut.-Col. H. H. Godwin-Austen, F.R.S., on the Naga Hills, N.E. frontier of India; but male specimens had since been obtained. The author proposed to call this species *Corydalis asiatica*. — A communication was read from Dr. J. Gwyn Jeffreys, F.R.S., on the Mollusca procured during the 'Lightning' and 'Porcupine' Expeditions 1868—70, forming the seventh part of his series of papers on this subject. The present part comprised the genera from *Rissoa* to *Acirsa*, with 74 species, of which 14 were new to science, as was also one new genus. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

## 2. Linnean Society of London.

6th March, 1884. — Announcement was made of an International Ornithological Congress to be held under the Auspices of the Austrian Government in Vienna during April next. — There was exhibited for Mr. J. E. Gunn a male variety of the Waterhen (*Gallinula chloropus*) which had been shot last spring near Norwich. — Prof. St. G. Mivart read a paper »On the Relations between Instinct and other vital processes«. In this he contended that Instinct can not be divided by a very hard and fast line from such vital processes as reflex action, processes of repair after injuries and the process of development of the individual; and that these latter were more readily explained as activities especially instinctive than that Instinct could be explained by reflex action or by lapsed intelligence. The vital processes referred to were also shown to have an important bearing on the question of the origin of species. — Prof. J. S. Cobbold gave a verbal account of a paper received from Dr. P. Manson of Hong-Kong (China) in which the author furnished fresh evidence as to the role of the Mosquito considered as the intermediary host of *Filaria sanguinis-hominis*. Dr. Manson has verified his previous observations in the most complete manner and he now recognises six well-marked stages in the growth of the Filariæ whilst they are dwelling within the body of the insect. In the discussion which followed Dr. J. R. Lewis confirmed Manson's statements in many particulars. — J. Murie.

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Zeitschrift/Journal: [Zoologischer Anzeiger](#)

Jahr/Year: 1884

Band/Volume: [7](#)

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