

rather attribute the action as due to the terminal whorl of hairs to which the honey adheres and therefrom is withdrawn inwards. The author of the paper on the other hand (from experiment and otherwise) is inclined to the view that the honey is drawn into the month through the inside of the tongue by means of a complicated pumping action of the organ itself aided by the closely contiguous parts. — J. Murie.

4. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

27th February, 1884. — 1. Monograph of the Australian Sponges. By R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D. Part 1. This paper is introductory to a Monograph upon the Australian Sponges, large materials for which have already been accumulated by the author, partly from his own collections, and partly from those in the Museums of Christchurch and Dunedin, New Zealand, and of Adelaide, South Australia. The real investigation of this branch of the Coelenterata may be said to begin with the work of Grant, 1826; to have risen to a new and much higher level under Schulze, 1875—1881, and to have been continued by Sollas, Keller, Vosmaer, Marshall, the author, and others with continually increasing success up to the present time. A sufficient account of the Bibliography of the Spongida is presented in this paper to enable those interested to find any desired information upon the subject, a matter of no small difficulty at present. — 2. The *Scyphomedusae* of the Southern Hemisphere. By R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D. Part 1. The *Scyphomedusae* or »Jelly-fish« appear to be more numerous in the Southern than in the Northern Hemisphere. Of the 210 known species, 104 have already been found in the former and as the animals of that Hemisphere are not nearly so well-known as those of the Northern, the number of Southern species must doubtless be much greater than that mentioned. Only 26 of the 104 Southern species are Australian, but this apparent poverty of the Medusae of our shores, is due to the limited investigation that has been made. In this paper all the species of this Hemisphere are described. — 3. Notices of some new Fishes by William Macleay, F.L.S., etc. Four species are here described. Two of them, *Platycephalus longispinis* and *Urolophus bucculentus* were taken in the Trawl in deep water outside the Heads of Port Jackson. The third, *Petroscirtes Wilsoni*, was found by Mr. J. D. Wilson, at the North Shore; and the fourth, *Athirinosoma Jamiesoni*, was a small fresh water fish from the Baemer, one of the head waters of the Brisbane River. — 4. On the improvement effected by the Australian climate, soil, and culture on the Merino sheep. By P. N. Trebeck, Esq. In this paper Mr. Trebeck traces the changes and improvement which wool has undergone in Australia since the first introduction of German and Silesian sheep. Samples of the wool of all the periods and flocks alluded to, were exhibited. Mr. Trebeck concludes his paper by stating his opinion, that the whole of the country on our western watershed was eminently suitable for the Merino sheep, and that we only required the fostering assistance of an intelligent Government to keep in the front ranks of the wool producing countries of the world. — The President exhibited several fine specimens of the »Paper Nautilus«, which had been brought from Lord Howe Island by Mr. H. T. Wilkinson, J. P. It is said that they are of rare occurrence at that Island.

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