

G. French Angas during a recent visit to the island of Dominica. The number of species in this collection was 27, among them being a species of Nymphalinae apparently new; this the authors proposed to describe as *Cymatogramma dominicana*. — Mr. Herbert Druce read a paper describing the Heterocera collected by Mr. Angas on the same island. — P. L. Selater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

1th May, 1884. — Mr. S. O. Ridley exhibited drawings of the spiculation of Sponges collected and forwarded by Dr. W. C. Ondaatje F.L.S. of Ceylon, sections of which had been shown and remarks made upon them at a previous meeting of the Society. Mr. Ridley also exhibited highly finished coloured sketches of Ceylonese Actiniae drawn from life by Dr. Ondaatje. — Prof. J. Bell afterwards pointed out the chief characteristics of a set of drawings of Comatulids taken from the living specimens as obtained by Dr. Ondaatje from the seas of Ceylon. — Mr. R. Bowdler Sharpe read a paper »on a Collection of Birds from the Bahr el Ghazal province and the Nyam-Nyam country in Equatorial Africa«. The author noted the presence of many species in this Herr Bondorff's collection of birds hitherto believed by ornithologists to be limited to West Africa only. This applied to these shot in the Nyam-Nyam country; whereas those species from the Bahr Ghazal and adjoining nilotic district were well known inhabitants of N. East Africa and the Senegambian area. From this Mr. Sharpe deduces that Herr Bondorff had crossed the boundary line of two faunas, and that the animals of the Nyam-Nyam region assimilate to those of the Gaboon and Congo territory rather than to the Lado district or that of Kordofan. This change in the fauna is attributed by Bondorff to the nature of the country from swamp and low lying grassy plains on the east to more hilly and drier forestland on the West. Mr. Sharpe follows Hartlaub's classification as adopted by the latter in his record of Emin Bey's Collections from Equatorial Africa. Mr. Sharpe further gives descriptions of new species with remarks on little known birds over some 27 in all. Of new forms he cites *Crateropus Bondorffi*, *Sigmodus griseimentalis*, *Mesopicus strictothorax*, *Ceuthmochares intermedius*, *Pionius Bondorffi*, *Syrnium fervidum*, *Falco ruficollis* and others as of considerable significance in relation to faunal distribution. — Mr. George Brook read a »Preliminary account of the development of the Weever fish (*Trachinus vipera*)«, in this mentioning that the eggs had been laid in his aquarium at Huddersfield, the fish themselves having been kept alive therein over two years. He drew attention to the fact of there being a vitelline membrane present in the eggs of this fish, as well as in those of the Herring: in contradistinction therefore to what is stated to be the case in osseous fishes generally. He also particularly referred to the persistent nature of the segmentation cavity, which is pushed round the yolk sac, concurrent with the development of the embryo from the blastoderm: and that it does not entirely disappear until the yolk is absorbed. The circulatory system, according to Mr. Brook's researches, is very late in developing, no bloodvessels appearing until several days after hatching. In illustration of his paper the author exhibited under the microscope preparations showing the segmentation stage, the embryonic shield and commencement of keel, the early embryo 3^d day before closure of the blastopore, and 4th day blastopore with

Kupffer's vesicle, also at the 8th day, and the newly hatched embryo. — J. Murie.

3. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

26th March, 1884. — 1. Botanical. — 2. The Australian *Hydro-medusae*, by R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D., Part I. It is proposed in this paper to describe a series of new species of *Hydromedusae* of our shores. As most essays on the *Hydromedusae* dwell exclusively either on the *Hydroid Zoophytes* or on the *Medusae* and as this course is not in accordance with our present view of Zoological classification a new classification of the *Hydromedusae* is proposed. This classification is marked out in the present paper. The present paper forms a *Prodromus* of a system of the *Hydroid Zoophytes* and *Craspedote Medusae*, which will be used and marked out in detail in subsequent Papers. The order of the *Hydromedusae* is here divided into five Suborders and twenty-one Families. — 3. The *Scyphomedusae* of the Southern Sea. By R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D. Part II. This paper is a continuation of the paper read at the last meeting of the Society, and contains a description of all the species of the third order of the *Scyphomedusae*, the *Cubomedusae*, which have been described from the South Sea. — 4. Botanical. — Mr. Ramsay exhibited a fine collection of Marine animals in illustration of the new and perfect methods of mounting and preserving specimens in use by Senor Lo Bianco, at Dr. Dohrn's Zoological Station, Naples. Among the exhibits were *Trachypterus taenia*, *Torpedo ocellata*, *Pennaria Cavolinii*, *Eudendrium ramosum*, *Zoobotryum pellucidum*, *Pennatula phosphorea*, *Antedon rosacea*, *Chromodoris elegans*, *Pleurophyllidea lineata*, *Pyrosoma elegans*, *Cestus veneris*, *Rhizostoma pulmo*, and many other beautiful preparations. — The President exhibited a portion of the lower jaw of a *Diprotodon* which had been found near Armidale by Mr. W. M. Harris. It was interesting to note the occurrence of the remains of this gigantic extinct marsupial on the summit of the Great Dividing Range as well as on the low-lying plains of the Darling District.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Zum Prosector der Zool. Soc. London an Stelle des im vorigen Jahre am Niger gestorbenen W. A. Forbes ist Mr. Frank E. Beddard erwählt worden.

Dr. Georg Baur, früher Assistent für Histologie an der anatomischen Anstalt in München, ist jetzt Assistent für Palaeontologie am Yale College (Prof. O. C. Marsh) in New Haven, Conn.

Necrolog.

Am 9. Januar starb in Lumley, Emsworth, Hants., William Buckler, als Entomolog, besonders Lepidopterolog rühmlich bekannt.

Am 7. April starb in York William Prest, ein vorzüglich für Lepidopteren thätiger Entomolog. Er war am 7. Mai 1824 in York geboren und hat sich um das Leben der naturwissenschaftlichen Vereine seiner Grafschaft sehr verdient gemacht.

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