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III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

28th May, 1884. — 1. New Australian Fishes in the Queensland Museum. By Charles W. De Vis, M. A. This, the first of a series of Papers descriptive of rare and new Fishes in the Queensland Museum, is confined to the *Percidae* only. Twenty-three species are described and 4 new genera, viz.: — *Herops* allied to *Priacanthus*, *Homodemus* a fresh water Fish approaching *Dules*, *Auristhes* of doubtful affinity, and *Hephestus* a fresh water vegetable feeding Fish resembling *Lobotes*. — 2. The Hydromedusae of Australia. Part 3. By R. v. Lendenfeld, Ph.D. The Australian Hydromedusae are here described which belong to the author's family *Blastopolypidae*. To the species described by former authors, which are enumerated with references, several new ones are added, some of which are of greater morphological interest, particularly *Diphosia symmetrica* nov. sp., which produces perfectly bilateral symmetrical female Gonangia. The number of species is exceedingly great. As far as some of the sub-families of this group are concerned, no other shore is inhabited by anything like such a number and diversity of forms as ours. — 3. On the Geographical Distribution of the Australian Medusae. By R. v. Lendenfeld, Ph.D. The distribution of the Medusae, or at all events of the large Rhizostomes, is shown in this Paper to be entirely controlled by the Ocean currents. Consequently where the currents are permanent the range of a species can only extend in one direction. — 4. The Digestion of Sponges, Ectodermal or Endodermal? By R. von Lendenfeld, Ph.D. The earlier experiments, which were made to ascertain where the digestive organ of the sponge is situated, showed such different results, that the author made a series of experiments on the subject two years ago in Melbourne, and was, by the help of these, enabled, not only to show with a large degree of probability, where and how the digestion was effected in the sponge which he experimented on, but he was also enabled by these experiments to find out the cause of the great difference in the results attained by former observers. The experiments were carried on with Carmine powder, mixed with the water of the Aquarium in which the sponge was kept. The results the author arrived at were taken up by the recent author's on sponges at home; and the second part of the question, viz., to which Embryonic layer the Epithelia belonged which, according to the author's researches, absorbed the food, was extensively discussed. The present paper gives an abstract of this interesting discussion, and there are also a few additions to the author's former statements. — Mr. Macleay said he wished to rectify as far as he was able at present some unaccountable omissions in the Supplement to the Catalogue of Australian Fishes, just published in Part 1, of Vol. IX, of the Proceedings. These were: — *Lophotes Guntheri* Johnston. Proc. Roy. Soc., Tasmania, 1882. *Atherina Tasmaniensis* Johnston. Proc. Roy. Soc., Tasmania, 1882. *Olistherops Brownii* Johnston. Proc. Roy. Soc., Tasmania, 1883. — Mr. Macleay exhibited for the Rev. T. Wyat Gill a small beetle from New Guinea — the firefly of the country — found about 40 miles East of Port Moresby. It was of the same family as the fireflies of Southern Europe, the *Lampyridae*, though probably a new species. Baron Maclay observed that he had noticed in New Guinea many other species of this family producing light in the same manner.

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