

hoe, F.Z.S., containing an account of the Lepidoptera collected by him at Kurrachee between the years 1878 and 1880. — A communication was read from Mr. Thomas H. Potts, of Ohinitaki, New Zealand, in which he described a case of hybridism between two species of Flycatchers of the genus *Rhipidura*.

18th November, 1884. — The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of October 1884, and called attention to a specimen of a Black-necked Coly (*Colius nigricollis*), purchased October 20th, being the first example of this species received alive by the Society. — A communication was read from Mr. J. G. F. Riedel, C.M.Z.S., containing comments on certain passages in Mr. H. O. Forbes's paper on Timor-Laut birds, read before the Society on the 17th June, 1884. — A communication was read from Mr. H. Pryer, C.M.Z.S., giving an account of a recent visit to the Edible-Birds'-nest Caves of British North Borneo. In illustration of this paper, Mr. Pryer sent specimens of the Swift (*Collocalia fuciphaga*), of its nest and eggs, of the Alga on which the bird was supposed to feed, and of the Bat which inhabited the same caves. — Mr. Sclater read an account of some skins of Mammals from Somali-land, which belonged apparently to five species. Amongst these was an apparently new form of Wild Ass, which was proposed to be called *Equus asinus somalicus*. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on the anatomy of the Umbrette (*Scopus umbretta*). The author observed that as regards its exact systematic position, which had been hitherto a matter of doubt, he was inclined to place this peculiar form as the type of a separate family, between the Herons (Ardeidae) and the Storks (Ciconiidae). — A second paper by Mr. Beddard contained the results of some recent investigations into the structure of *Echidna*, and related to the presence of a persistent umbilical vein in that animal. — Captain Shelley read a paper on some new or little-known species of East-African birds. Three of these were described under the names *Muscicapa Johnstoni*, *Pratincola axillaris*, and *Nectarinia kilimensis*. The collection, which contained altogether 94 specimens, referable to 38 species, was the first fruits of Mr. H. H. Johnston's Expedition to Kilimandjaro. — A communication was read from Mr. J. H. Gurney, F.Z.S., on the geographical distribution of *Huhua nipalensis*, with remarks on this and other allied species of Owls. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

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6th November, 1884. — Mr. R. A. Rolfe exhibited and made remarks on examples of British Oakgalls produced by Cynipidian insects of the genus *Neuroterus*, collected by him chiefly at Kew Gardens. He admitted that as a rule the plan and detail of the galls depend on the nature of the irritating fluid deposited by the insect; but at the same time the various species of oak have special influence in determining colour and often size of the galls. — A paper was read by Mr. George Brook, on some points in the Development of the Five-bearded Rockling, *Motella mustela*. In this attention was called to the following points: — 1) Whereas there is only one large oil globule in the normal egg of *Motella*, some times this is subdivided into from two to eight or even more, but in these cases there is always an abnormal development which often results in the death of the embryo. In those that survive the small oil globules always coalesce to form one large

one before the embryo hatches. 2) In the further development of the newly hatched embryo there is a cranial flexure produced which is analogous to that so characteristic of Elasmobranchs. This is caused by the rapid development of the dorsal portion of the head, while the ventral portion remains comparatively quiescent. Later, the ventral portion plays its part and with the development of the jaws the brain is pushed back to its normal position. 3) As in other pelagic teleostean eggs there is no circulation observable either in the embryo or in the vitellus up to the time of hatching, nor indeed for some days afterwards. 4) In *Motella* the anal gut does not open on the ventral surface for at least a week after hatching. Ryder has shown the same to be the case with the cod fish, so that the young *Gadidae* would not appear to be in a position to take solid food at nearly so early a period in their existence as is usual with teleosteans. Mr. Brook also called attention to the influence of temperature on the rate of development of pelagic eggs and suggested that until we know the temperature at which the various observations are made on these forms, no true comparison can be established. A paper was read for Mr. Thomas H. Potts viz. Notes on Some New Zealand Birds, therein being recorded field-observations on the habits of the Quail-hawk, Harrier, Owl, Kaka, Kea, Longtailed Cuckoo, Kingfisher and Native wren. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Göttingen. Am zoologisch-zootomischen Institut sind Herr Dr. J. Brock und Herr Dr. F. Ahlborn aus den Assistenten-Stellungen ausgeschieden; ersterer hat eine, zoologischen Studien dienende Reise, zunächst nach Singapore, angetreten, letzterer eine Lehrerstellung in Hamburg angenommen. In die erledigten Stellen sind eingetreten Herr Dr. O. Hamann, Privatdocent an der Universität, und Herr Dr. H. Henking.

Necrolog.

Am 11. November starb zu Renthendorf, dem Orte seiner Geburt, Dr. Alfred Edmund Brehm, geboren 1829, Sohn des bekannten Ornithologen Chstn. Ludw. Brehm. Er hat nicht bloß durch sein »Illustriertes Thierleben«, sondern durch sein vieljähriges Wirken als Leiter zoologischer Gärten, Redner und Reisender die Verbreitung des Interesses an der Thierwelt in weitesten Kreisen gefördert.

Am 23. November starb in Berlin Dr. Heinrich Bodinus, Director des dortigen Zoologischen Gartens. Er war am 29. Juli 1814 in Drewelow in Pommern geboren, war kurze Zeit praktischer Arzt in Bergen auf Rügen, ließ sich jedoch 1852 in Greifswald nieder, von wo er 1859 nach Cöln zur Leitung des Zoologischen Gartens berufen wurde. 1869 übernahm er die Leitung des Berliner Zoologischen Gartens. In richtiger Würdigung der Aufgaben zoologischer Gärten hat er für die Förderung der Pflege und Zucht der Thiere Vortreffliches geleistet.

Bemerkung der Verlagshandlung.

Der Preis des »Zoologischen Anzeigers« muß wegen Vermehrung des Textes und sonstiger größerer Herstellungskosten von 1885 an auf **Mark 15**, — jährlich erhöht werden.

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