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tung der vergleichenden Entwicklungsgeschichte in Frage stellen; deshalb scheinen mir die Schlußfolgerungen Heider's mit den von ihm acceptirten Thatsachen nicht vereinbar.

Doch besteht ein solcher Widerspruch keineswegs zwischen den beiden verschiedenen Erscheinungsweisen, welche sich uns gegenwärtig in der Entwicklung der *Oscarella* und der *Spongilla* darstellen. Sie verhalten sich zu einander nicht wesentlich anders wie die Entwicklungsverläufe verschiedener Würmer, unter denen sowohl der Schwund des Ectoderms (Trematoden, Cestoden) wie eine sehr verschiedene Umbildung des Entoderms bekannt sind. Aber allerdings gestattet die nachweisbare genetische Zusammengehörigkeit keineswegs, die fertige Organisation der verschiedenen Würmer oder Schwämme durchweg auf dieselbe Keimschichtung zu beziehen. So wie den niedersten Würmern theils eine embryonale Sonderung des Entoderms in Enteroderm und Mesoderm fehlt (*Acoela, Dendrocoela* u. a.), theils das Ectoderm verloren geht (Trematoden, Cestoden), so scheinen mir auch *Spongilla* und alle ähnlich entwickelten Schwämme gegenüber *Oscarella* indifferentere Zustände und Rückbildungen zu vereinen. Wenn aber die genannten Würmer in ihrer Abtheilung als Ausnahmen zu betrachten sind, so dürfte bei den Schwämmen das Verhältnis ein umgekehrtes sein.

III. Mittheilungen aus Museen, Instituten etc.

1. Zoological Society of London.

6th April 1886. The Secretary read a report on the additions that had been made to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1886, and called attention to a second specimen of the Rough-billed Pelican of North America (*Pelecanus trachyrhynchus*), purchased March 2nd, and to an example of the White-tailed Ichneumon (*Herpestes albicauda*) from Lamoo, Eastern Africa, presented by F. J. Jackson, Esq., F.Z.S., March 4th. — The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of Mr. J. B. Martin, F.Z.S., a large tusk of the Indian Elephant (*Elephas indicus*), about 6 feet long and weighing over 100 pounds, stated to have belonged to a »rogue Elephant«, with only one tusk, which had been killed at Goruckpore in 1836. — Mr. Sclater exhibited the heads and horns of two species of Antelopes obtained in the vicinity of Lamoo, East Africa, belonging respectively to *Strepsiceros imberbis* and *Damalis senegalensis*. — Mr. F. E. Beddard read a paper on some points in the anatomy of *Chauna chavaria*. — Prof. Flower communicated a paper by Miss Agnes Crane on a Brachiopod of the genus *Atretia*, from Port Stephen, Australia, described in MS. by the late Dr. T. Davidson, and proposed to be called *Atretia Brazieri*. — Mr. J. G. Goodchild, H.M. Geol. Survey, read a paper on the disposition of the cubital coverts in Birds. This communication described the principal modes of imbrication of the cubital coverts, as ob-

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served in healthy living birds of all the leading carinate forms, and pointed out that there is a certain correlation between particular styles of imbrication and various other characteristics connected with the pterylosis, the myology, the visceral anatomy and osteology of the birds in question. The paper concluded with some observations upon the origin of the features described. — A communication was read from Dr. Günther, F.R.S., containing some further information on the melanotic variety of the South-African Leopard which he had previously described. — P. L. Sclater, Secretary.

2. Linnean Society of London.

15th April 1886. Specimens of so called Madrepore Marble from Iowa (U.S.) were shown for Mr. G. A. Treadwell, the abundance of *Stromatopora* giving the specimens in question a peculiar character. — A paper was read on New African Genera and Species of Curculionidæ by Mr. Francis P. Pascoe. The author remarks that the localities from which the greater part of the species described by him were derived are, so to say, new to scientists. They are Momboia a missionary station north of Lake Nyassa, Landana a new settlement on the Congo, and Mayotte one of the Comoro islands of Madagascar. Mr. Pascoe admits that Entomological Litterature is now so extensive that possibly some of his own supposed new species may already be known; but the difficulty on his part may be more openly due to the inadequate descriptions without any reference to affinities or diagnostic characters given by some Entomologists. He is inclined to think that precise diagnosis and considerations of affinity are often of more importance than the mere descriptions themselves. He states that there is probably no family of insects in which greater diversity of appearance in the same genus is to be found than in the Curculionidæ. Species the most dissimilar are not to be separated by any characters which are usually deemed to be of generic value, and in extreme cases we have to fall back on secondary characters which after all may be quite as natural. On the other hand species which are very much alike in appearance are found to belong to widely different groups; while again the absence in many cases of any correlation between the characters makes the classification difficult, and necessitates an undesirable but unavoidable number of genera if anything like definiteness is to be maintained, under the present conditions of insect nomenclature. — An important Contribution tho the Natural History of the Roraima district, British Guiana was read by E. J. im Thurn, the Vegetation, however, being more largely dealt with. — J. Murie.

IV. Personal-Notizen.

Necrolog.

Am 28. Februar starb bei Edinburgh Herr Charles William Peach, ein um die Kenntnis der britischen Fauna der Jetztzeit und der Vorzeit äußerst verdienter Mann, 86 Jahre alt.

Am 28. Februar starb in Löwen Prof. Charl. J. Éd. Morren, der bewährte Botaniker, dessen Untersuchungen über Lumbriciden ihm aber auch eine ehrenvolle Stellung unter den Zoologen sichern.

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