

could collect upon the subject in this journal,\* and urged the expediency of further investigation in order to discover the true nature of these curious objects. I also called the attention of various correspondents in America to the same subject, and sent them copies of the article in NATURE.

It appears that the problem has now been satisfactorily solved, and that Prof. Kölliker, Mr. Mosely, and other naturalists, who held that these organisms were the axes of an unknown Alcyonarian polyp of the family Pennatulidæ were correct.

In a paper communicated to the Californian Academy of Sciences on the 18th of August last, of which I have received a separate copy, Mr. R. E. C. Stearns states that a specimen of the Polyp, of which these bodies are the axes, had been presented to the Academy by Dr. James Blake. Mr. Stearns describes the polyp at full length, and proposes to call it *Verrillia blakei*. He describes the general aspect of the species as resembling that of *Pavonaria quadrangularis*, but states that the polyps are arranged in "two unilateral longitudinal series."

I may add, that a communication from Dr. Edward L. Moss on the same subject, has been received by the Zoological Society of London, and will be read at one of the meetings next session. P. L. SCLATER

#### THE RAY SOCIETY†

THE Council, in presenting their thirtieth Annual Report, congratulate the members upon the continued prosperity of the Society.

The lapse of time, so marked by the production of a long series of volumes on zoology and botany, issued under the auspices of the Society, has scarcely lessened the original dimensions of the Printed List of Monographs in preparation and in progress; the completion of old memoirs being ever counterbalanced by offers of works from new authors. A recent proposal by Mr. G. B. Buckton to describe the British Aphides is a case in point. This addition will occupy the place left void by the publication of Sir John Lubbock's very valuable and interesting contribution to the study of insect life.

Since the last annual meeting some attempt has been made, not unsuccessfully, to reduce the arrears in the issue of the volumes. The monograph for the year 1871, the "Collembola and Thysanura," by Sir John Lubbock, Bart., M.P., has already been distributed to the members; the work for the year 1872, the "British Annelids," Part I., containing the Nemerteans, by Dr. W. C. McIntosh, has been so far finished that it will be ready in a few weeks' time for the binder; whilst the volume for the year 1873, the "Spongiadæ," vol. iii., by Dr. Bowerbank, is, with the exception of a single plate, completed.

The Council have considered that it would be to the advantage of the Society if members could obtain the past annual volumes at the original (or in some cases at less than the original) subscription price. With this view resolutions have been passed: first, that the annual volumes, or sets of annual volumes, issued during the last ten years should be purchasable by members at the subscription price of one guinea; and, secondly, that the books in stock, published earlier than the year 1863, should be supplied at a lower cost than that named in previous reports; and, thirdly, that certain of the volumes belonging to the years 1865, 1866, 1867, and 1868, formerly not distributed separately, should be offered to members for sums less than that of the year's subscription.

In accordance with these resolutions, a list of books and prices has been prepared. The volumes may be obtained on application to the secretary.

\* See NATURE vol. vi. p. 435.

† Extracted from the Report.

The volumes in preparation for future years are:—  
Mr. St. George Mivart's "Monograph of the Tailed Amphibia."

Rev. O. P. Cambridge's supplementary volume on "British Spiders."

Messrs. Douglas and Scott's work on the "British Hemiptera Homoptera."

Dr. Gaertner's work on "Hybridism in Plants" (Bas-tarderzeugung), translated from the German by W. Carruthers, F.R.S.

Prof. Haeckel's "Morphologic." A new edition, revised by himself, and translated from the German.

Mr. Hancock's Monograph of the "British Tunicata."

Mr. Andrew Murray's work on the "Coniferæ."

Rev. H. B. Tristram's "Synopsis of the Fauna and Flora of Palestine."

Prof. Westwood's Monograph of the "Mantidæ," with illustrations by Mr. E. A. Smith.

Mr. Buckton's Monograph on the "British Aphides."

The Council, in conclusion, would urge the members to assist in the work of obtaining new subscribers, seeing that very many old friends are being removed from the list of the Society year by year through death and various causes.

#### ON THE INTERNAL NOSE OF THE PECCARIES AND PIGS

IN examining the sections of the skulls of the Wild Boar the Babirusa, the Phacochoer, and the Peccary, I was struck with the great difference in the form and development of the internal part of the organ of smelling of the peccary as distinguished between it and the other genera.

The Wild Boar, Babirusa, and Phacochoer, have the nasal cavities on each side of the head large, broad, and continued from the outer to the internal nostrils in a simple manner, and they are only separated from the palate by a thin bone, as they are in the sheep and the generality of allied animals. In these animals the turbinal bone arises from the centre of the outside of each nasal cavity, and is divided above into two plates which are rolled backwards, towards the outer side of the nose. There is a perforation between the hinder edge of the intermaxillary bone and the palatine bone in front of the palate behind the cutting teeth which opens directly into the front of the nasal cavity just within the nostrils, as figured in Huxley's "Elementary Atlas," t. i. 4 d.

In the peccary the internal nostrils open into a small cavity, which soon becomes tubular, pervading a large hollow cellular part which occupies the space above the palatine bones, and then gives off a large opening on the outer side to the turbinal bones, and is continued in a smaller tube to a small opening on each side of the front part of the palate, behind the cutting tooth. This aperture is evidently analogous to the large perforation in front of the palate of the pigs, but is quite of a different structure. There is a cavity further in near the external nostrils, which forms an opening to the pituitary convolutions, to which I see nothing like in the skull of the pigs. The naso-turbinal is fixed by its upper edge to the upper part of the nasal cavity, and is rolled inwards, and there is a lamina on the lower side from the expanded part of the tubular internal nostril, which meets the one from the upper edge. The whole structure of this part is quite different from that in the pigs, and Phacochoer, and justifies the separation of the Peccaries as a different group from the pigs. I may also remark that in this genus there is a well-marked bony plate on each side of the brain cavity, that separates the edge of the cerebrum from the cerebellum. This septum is only slightly marked in the skull of the wild boar, and is entirely absent in the Babirusa and Phacochoer.

J. E. GRAY