

AMONG recent additions to the Manchester Aquarium are the following:—1 Smooth Hound or Skate-Toothed Shark (*Mustelus vulgaris*); 2 Topers or White Hound (*Galeus canis*); 2 Picked Dog-fish (*Acanthias vulgaris*); 4 Lesser Spotted Dog-fish (*Syllium canicula*); 4 Greenland Bullheads (*Coltus grænlandicus*); 3 Gemmeous Dragonets (*Callionymus lyra*); 5 Cat or Wolf-fish (*Anarhicus lupus*); 2 Tadpole Fish (*Raniceps trifurcus*); Zoophytes—*Actinoloba dianthus*, *Sagartia bellis*, *S. nivea*, *S. vidiata*, *S. miniate*, *Tealia crassicornis*.

THE additions to the Zoological Society's Gardens during the past week include a Black-backed Jackal (*Canis mesomelas*) from South Africa, presented by Captain Webster; two Rhesus Monkeys (*Macacus erythrorus*) from India, presented by Mr. W. Dunn; a Chinese Turtle Dove (*Turtur chinensis*), from India, presented by Major F. Gildea; a Canadian Beaver (*Castor canadensis*) and a Virginian Deer (*Cervus virginianus*), born in the Gardens; a Lanner Falcon (*Falco lanarius*), from east Europe, purchased.

SCIENTIFIC SERIALS

Transactions of the Norfolk and Norwich Naturalists' Society, 1873-74 (Norwich: Fletcher & Son).—This Society is now in the fifth year of its existence, and is in a satisfactory condition as to members. The chief features of the present number of its "Transactions" are Parts IV. and V. of the "Fauna and Flora of Norfolk," which the Society has undertaken to publish. Part IV., by Dr. John Lowe, embraces a list of the fishes known to occur in the Norfolk waters; and Part V. (forming a separate supplement), the Norfolk Lepidoptera, by Mr. C. G. Barrett. Both lists appear to have been done with great care and caution, and we should think that Dr. Lowe and Mr. Barrett have left very little to be added. The catalogues reflect the greatest credit both upon the compilers and on the Society, a few of the wealthier members of which have contributed the greater part of the expense of printing the present supplement. The next instalment of this important work of the Norfolk Society will contain the flowering plants, by Mr. H. D. Geldart. The president's address gives a *résumé* of the year's work of the Society, and discusses the question of Biogenesis.—Mr. F. D. Wheeler contributes a paper On breeding Lepidoptera in confinement, giving the results of the author's own experience; and Mr. F. Kitton one On Empusca and other micro-fungi.—In a short paper by Mr. J. B. Bridgman On the nidification of the Prosopis, the author concludes that this bee forms its "nest in any suitable situation, whether in soft earth or wood, not even despising ready-formed holes, and that it collects and carries home pollen in its mouth, after working it up in a pellet."—Mr. John Quinton contributes notes On the meteorological observations recorded at Norwich during the years 1870-73.—A variety of interesting miscellaneous natural history notes conclude the number. Altogether this Society must be congratulated on its year's work; its first object is "the practical study of natural science," which it seems to be carrying out with considerable faithfulness.

Proceedings of the Bath Natural History and Antiquarian Field Club, vol. iii. No. 1. 1874. This Society, to judge from this number of its "Proceedings," seems to devote itself mainly to antiquarian research, "Natural History," though it comes first in its title, seeming to find but small favour among the members. This defect the secretary animadverted strongly upon in his "Summary of Proceedings," stating, moreover, that the club was originally started for the purpose of botanical research. We do not undervalue antiquarian research, but we think it a pity that a club containing so many intelligent and well-educated members should fritter away almost its entire time and strength in a department that could be very satisfactorily worked by a small proportion of its members, to the almost entire neglect of the rich field presented by the district around Bath for Natural History investigation. We hope that the next number of its Proceedings will show that the suggestions of the secretary have been adopted. The only two natural history papers in this number are by Mr. C. E. Broome, F.L.S., On some of the fungi found in the Bath district, the present paper including Order 10, Myxogasters, and a short note by the Rev. Leonard Blomefield, F.L.S., On the occurrence of the Land Planaria (*Planaria terrestris*) in the

neighbourhood of Bath. Dr. Bird was the first to discover this animal (supposed to be the only species of Land Planaria in western Europe) in the Bath district, and Mr. Blomefield is inclined to believe it to be carnivorous, making a prey of the smaller land molluscs. The secretary gives an extremely interesting summary of the meetings and excursions of the Society during 1873-74.

Zeitschrift der Oesterreichischen Gesellschaft für Meteorologie, June 1.—The observations of M. Marié Davy on the diminution of certain river waters in France are here closed with a discussion on the influence of different kinds of vegetation growing in their basins. It is shown that waste open land evaporates the least amount of rain-water, and forests less than corn or other farm produce. The increase of high farming and artificial meadow-land, absorbing and evaporating much moisture, must diminish the size of streams by robbing them of part of their supply, and to keep up the summer flow of a river it might be thought desirable to plant its upper basin with forests. Comparison of different rivers shows, however, that no valuable addition would thus be gained. Whatever be the origin of the river, geological conditions are alone effective. Therefore, although as a measure of national economy, for fixing soil on slopes, mitigating floods and changes of level, and providing cheap fuel, the maintenance of forests would be beneficial, we must look forward to a time when the art of storing some of the excess of winter rainfall to supply the needs of summer will be adopted in agriculture.—Among the "Kleinere Mittheilungen," Prof. Prestel deduces from twenty years' measurement of ozone a result similar to that of Herr Karlinski at Krakau, showing a minimum in November or December and a maximum in the spring.—The work of Herr Edlund on the mean temperature of Sweden, and a delicate form of Goldschmidt's aneroid, are here noticed.

Schriften der Naturforschenden Gesellschaft in Danzig, 1873.—The history of the population in the eastern provinces of Prussia is still involved in much obscurity, while that of the remaining provinces is pretty accurately known. In one of the papers in this volume Dr. Marshall considers the evidence obtainable from early writers—Pliny, Tacitus, &c.—from names of persons and places, and more especially from the archaeological collections, of which there are two, imperfectly arranged, in Königsberg. From a study of grave-relics, Dr. Marshall is led to the conclusion that, at one time, in these eastern provinces two distinct races lived together. Several races having come from the east and settled in the coastlands of the Baltic, more than 1,000 years B.C., this land was, later, overrun by Goths from central Russia, many of whom pressed on to Scandinavia and the Danish Islands, and to western and southern Europe; but a number remained on the amber coast, especially in the Weichsel region, and became fused with the Aestian or Wend race, already there; they were together known as *Prussen*.—Among the papers is another giving an account of a chemical analysis (made by direction of Dr. Friederici) of certain empty grave-urns of the ancient Prussians, the significance of which has not been clearly ascertained. Dr. Friederici thinks they were in themselves sacred vessels; they are made not from clay, but from ashes, fired probably with blood of animals killed in sacrifice. In heating, the blood and the carbon particles at the surface had been turned to ashes, presenting a reddish-yellow appearance, while the internal substance was merely carbonised, and darker in colour.—Dr. Lissauer gives an account (with excellent photographs) of some more of those curious face-urns that have been found in large numbers in certain parts of Pomerania; and M. Kasioki describes a number of antiquities of various kinds discovered in Pomerania during 1872.—Dr. Lebert, who has been experimenting on the fluorescence of some specimens of Sicilian amber, finds the phenomenon in these much more marked and frequent than in Prussian amber; in the case of the latter he has observed, with strong sunlight, not only the existence, but the manifold character of the cone of light.—A valuable paper on new and extended employment of the level for astronomical and geodetic measurements is contributed by M. Kayser, and M. Menge continues a list and description of Prussian spiders.

SOCIETIES AND ACADEMIES

LONDON

Royal Society, June 18.—On the Force caused by Evaporation from and Condensation at a Surface, by Prof. Osborne Reynolds, of Owens College, Manchester.