In the period of maximum solar activity the bright line 6676·9 was on several occasions seen in the spectroscope, while the height of the chromosphere was being measured at Stonyhurst on the C line of hydrogen. At these times C was always very bright, and generally displaced in the prominences in which 6676·9 was seen. The latter line was not seen in the observations taken between March 9, 1886, and September 10, 1891. Although both Young and Thollon attribute the line to iron, no iron line is given in this position by either Ångström or the catalogues of the British Association. Dunér, quoted by Thollon, considers the line variable with the state of solar activity, but Ångström seems to have made an error in drawing it as a fine thin line, as Kirchhoff, Burton, Fievez, Smyth, Thollon, and Higgs give it as a strong dark line. Finally, Young, Burton, and the Stonyhurst observers identify it with Kirchhoff's ray 654·3, and Thollon with 641, which latter is a calcium line. There would, then, appear to be some differences of opinion with regard to this important line (cf. *Monthly Notices R.A.S.*, vol. li., No. 1, p. 22.)

A. L. CORTIE.

St. Beuno's College, St. Asaph, November 19.

Peculiar Eyes.

I LABOUR under the peculiar inconvenience of having a right eye of normal power and a short-sighted left eye. The numerals on the face of a clock ⅛ of an inch high are visible to the right eye at 12 feet distant; but in order to discern them as clearly with my left eye I require to bring that organ of vision as near to the figures as 8 inches. On looking at my gold chain hanging on my breast in daylight and with both eyes, the chain, coloured yellow and towards the left, is perceived by the right eye, while a steely blue chain, another, yet the same, is perceived about an inch to the right and a little higher up. By artificial light the same phenomenon presents itself, but the difference of colour is not so apparent; the yellow to the right is only dimmer. Again, when a page of NATURE is being read with the short-sighted eye, there appears, about an inch to the left, part of the same column, small, and the black, under artificial light, like weak purple. The right-hand side of this ghost-like column is lost to the right eye, being commingled with the larger, darker letters seen by the short-sighted left, which cover it like the more recent writing on a palimpsest. Middle life was reached before the discovery was made. These experiences must be gone through with intent, for objects generally being perceived altogether with the right eye, all that the left seems good for is to supply a little more light. The perception of the difference of colour is as good with the one eye as the other, and the short-sighted eye can read smaller type.

As the inferior animals, so far as I know, have no habit of peeping or looking with one eye shut and the other open, it occurred to me that this ability might be a limited one. I tried the experiment with school children, and to my surprise found that a few were quite unable to keep one eye shut and the other open at the same time, and a few did it with an effort, making in all about a fourth of the number. Adults were likewise under similar limits, but to a less extent. This may be the reason why the discovery of inequality of vision, as Sir John Herschel remarks, is often made late in life. Indeed, he mentions an elderly person who made the unpleasant discovery that he was altogether blind of an eye.

JAS. SHAW.

Tynron, Dumfriesshire.

Zoological Regions.

THE last number of the *Archiv für Naturgeschichte*, lvii., which has just appeared, contains (pp. 277–291, pl. x.) an article by Prof. Möbius, dealing with the zoological regions of the earth, chiefly with a cartographical and "museological" object, in which a set of regions is proposed differing in some respects from that most generally in use. The number of land regions is raised to twelve instead of the usual five or six, and the marine world is likewise subdivided into a number of regions. A part of what may appear innovations is in fact nothing but a reversion to the zoological subdivisions of the world proposed by Schmarda ("Geographische Verbreitung der Thiere") in 1853. It seems extraordinary that, although alluding to the works of the principal authorities who have dealt with zoogeography since Schmarda, Prof. Möbius should not have referred to that author otherwise than in a second-hand quotation. For not only did Schmarda lay down the basis on which zoological regions have since been elaborated, but his attempt is, everything considered, in many respects superior to that of his immediate successors in the same field.

It will be seen, on comparing Schmarda's and Möbius's maps, or the table annexed to this note, that several of the regions independently proposed by these authors coincide in their limits, the principal difference being that Schmarda divided the world into a greater number of "Reiche," some of which are merely amalgamated in Möbius's "Gebiete."

G. A. BOULENGER.

SCHMARDA, 1853.		MÖBIUS, 1891.
A. *Festland.*	=	A. *Landgebiete.*
I. ArctischesReich ..	=	I. Nordpolar Gebiet.
II. Mittel-Europa	=	II. Europäisch-Sibirisches G. (+ part of Schmarda's I, R.).
V. Mittelmeer Reich ...	=	III. Mittelmeer G.
III. Kaspische Steppenländer		
IX. Wüste		
IV. Centralasiatische Steppen	=	IV. Chinesisches G.
VI. China		
VII. Japan		
VIII. Nordamerica	=	X. Nordamerikanisches G.
X. Westafrika	=	VI. Afrikanisches G.
XI. Hochafrika		
XII. Madagascar	=	VII. Madagassiches G.
XIII. Indien	=	V. Indisches G.
XIV. Sunda-Welt		
XV. Australisches Reich ...	=	VIII. Australisches G.
XVI. American. Mittelreich	=	XI. Südamerikanisches G.
XVII. Brasilien		
XVIII. Ando-peruan.-chil. R.		
XIX. Pampas		
XX. Patagonien		
XXI. Polinesien	=	VIII. (Part). IX. Neuseeländisches G.
B. *Meere.*	=	*B. Meergebiete.*
XXII. Arctisches M.	=	I. Nordpolar M.
XXIII. Antarctisches M. ...	=	VIII. Süd-M.
XXX. Südl. Atlant. Oc. ...		
XXXI. Südl. Stiller Oc. ...		
XXIV. Nördl. Atlant. Oc. ...	=	II. Nordatlant. M.
XXV. S. Eur. Mittel-M. ...	=	III. Mittel-M.
XXVI. Nördl. Stiller Oc. ...	=	VII. Nordpacifisches M.
XXVII. Trop. Atlant. Oc. ...	=	IV. Südatlantisches M.
XXVIII. Indischer Oc.	=	V. Indisch-Polynesisches M.
XXIX. Trop. Stiller Oc. ...		VI. Peruanisches M.

Scientific Nomenclature.

A propos of Prof. Parker's interesting article on scientific nomenclature in your issue of the 19th inst. (p. 68), I should like to call attention to the misuse of the term involucre in regard to the Anemone, &c. The so-called involucre of the Anemone is really, morphologically, a calyx, and until the flower-bud has grown to the height of an inch or two from the ground, it to a certain extent performs the ordinary functions of a calyx. Then an internode is developed between the calyx and corolla. But the presence of this internode, long as it is, should no more prevent our assigning to the calyx its proper name, than does the slight internode existing between the calyx and corolla of *Lychnis diurna*.

Great Malvern. H. ST. A. ALDER.

"The Darwinian Society."

I WOULD call Mr. White's attention to the fact that the name of this Society is not "The Darwinian Society," but "The Edinburgh University Darwinian Society"—a name which, considering Darwin's connection with the University and with a similar Society here, I think we are quite entitled to assume.

JOHN S. FLETT,
Secretary.

University of Edinburgh,
November 24.