

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Linnean Society, April 24.—The President, Mr. Henry Deane, in the chair.—Description of a fly-catcher, presumably new, by C. W. de Vis. The name *Arses lorcalis* was proposed for a fly-catcher from Cape York, with the lower surface entirely white in the male, ochreous in a band on the lower throat in the female, and with white lores in both sexes.—On the specific identity of the *Peripatus*, hitherto supposed to be *P. leuckarti*, Säng., by J. J. Fletcher. It was shown by a translation of Säng's paper (in Russian) descriptive of the Australian *Peripatus*, that *P. insignis*, Dendy, is a synonym of *P. leuckarti*. Various considerations point to the following classification of Australian *Peripatus*: *Peripatus leuckarti*, Säng. Australian *Peripatus* with 14 or 15 pairs of walking legs; without or with an accessory tooth at the base of the fang of the outer jaw blade, or with several (three in one case, indications of even more in another). Males with a pair of (accessory genital) pores between the genital papilla and the anus; with a white tubercle on each leg of the first pair only, or of the last pair only, or of all or only some of the pairs with the exception of the first. (1) *P. leuckarti*, Säng., var. *typica* (*P. leuckarti*, Säng.; *P. insignis*, Dendy). With 14 pairs of walking legs; no accessory tooth; New South Wales, Victoria, Tasmania. (2) *P. leuckarti*, Säng., var. *occidentalis*. With 15 pairs of walking legs; no accessory tooth; West Australia (Mr. A. M. Lea). (3) *P. leuckarti*, Säng., var. *orientalis* (*P. leuckarti*, Säng.). With 15 pairs of walking legs; with one or more accessory teeth; viviparous; Queensland, New South Wales. (4) The Victorian *Peripatus* described by Dr. Dendy as *P. oviparus* Victoria and Tasmania (probably—for a specimen in the Macleay Museum).—Description of *Peripatus oviparus*, by Dr. A. Dendy. In the light of knowledge gained from the translation of Säng's description of *P. leuckarti*, already referred to, and the consequent necessary revision of the nomenclature at present in use, the author dealt at length with the larger Victorian *Peripatus*, which he proposed to call *P. oviparus*.—Notes on the sub-family *Brachyscelinae*, with descriptions of new species, by W. W. Froggatt. This paper comprised notes upon the classification and systematic position of the gall-making Coccids, some corrections in the earlier descriptions of *Brachyscelis Thorntoni*, together with descriptions of three new species proposed to be called *B. dipsaciformis*, *B. sessilis*, and *B. rosiformis*.—On a Fiddler Ray (*Trygonorhina fasciata*) with abnormal pectoral fins, by J. P. Hill. The specimen observed, a young male 26.9 cm. long, presented a striking appearance by reason of the anterior portion of each pectoral fin being separated from the head by a wide and deep notch. The significance of the abnormality was discussed at some length.

AMSTERDAM.

Royal Academy of Sciences, April 18.—Prof. Van de Sande Bakhuizen in the chair.—Prof. MacGillavry gave a sketch of two methods employed by him to detect the adulteration of butter with less than one per cent. of oleo-margarine or with oils.—Prof. Pekelharing read a paper on the objections raised against his view as to the nature of the fibrine ferment, viz. that it is a compound of nucleoproteid and lime, more particularly on the objections brought forward by Halliburton, who, by his important and extensive investigations, has contributed so much to our knowledge in this department. The author had found (1) that artificial fibrine ferment, prepared by treating nucleoproteid first with lime-water and then with carbonic acid, became only partly soluble by being kept under alcohol for a long time, whereas when treated in the same manner as Schmidt's ferment, it yielded a powerful fibrino-plastic solution; (2) that magnesium sulphate-plasma remained liquid, not for want of nucleoproteid, but because it did not contain enough calcium salts. The magnesium sulphate prevented the combination of nucleoproteid and lime; but when the combination had once been brought about, MgSO₄ impeded the coagulation in a much smaller degree. Magnesium sulphate plasma was coagulated by artificial fibrine just as well as by ferment from blood serum; (3) that intravenous injection of Schmidt's and Hammerston's ferment had the same consequence as the injection of a small quantity of nucleoproteid, viz. Wooldridge's "negative phase," a retardation of the coagulation of the blood which was effused from the vessels. On the other hand, if a more concentrated solution of fibrine ferment, prepared by Ganger's method, was injected into a vein of a rabbit, the animal died of intravascular coagulation.—Prof. Schoute proved that the number of crystallographic forms of the regular system in a space

of *n* dimensions is 2^{*n* - 1}.—Prof. Kamerlingh Onnes communicated the results of investigations by Mr. A. Lebet in the Leyden laboratory: (1) compensation method of the observation of Hall's effect; (2) on the dissymmetry of Hall's effect in bismuth when the directions of the magnetic field are opposite to each other. In every plate there are two perpendicular directions of great importance. The primary electrodes being attached in accordance with these directions, there is no dissymmetry. When they are attached in a direction making an angle *a* with one of them, the Hall effect is given by $H \pm \frac{1}{2}(K_1 - K_2) \sin 2a$. It is explained by a difference between the variations of resistance through magnetisation *K*₁ and *K*₂ in two perpendicular directions.

BOOKS AND SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Dairy Bacteriology: Dr. E. von Freudenreich, translated by Prof. J. R. A. Davis (Methuen).—Petrology for Students: A. Harker (Cambridge University Press).—A Text-Book of Zoogeography: F. E. Bedford (Cambridge University Press).—Hydrodynamics: Prof. H. Lamb (Cambridge University Press).—Museums Association. Report of Proceedings, &c., at the Fifth Annual General Meeting, held in Dublin, June 26 to 29, 1894 (Sheffield).—The Horticulturist's Rule-Book: L. H. Bailey, 3rd edition (Macmillan).—Agriculture: R. H. Wallace (Chambers).—Off the Mill: Bishop G. F. Browne (Smith, Elder).—Bibliotheca Geographica, Band 1 (Berlin, Kuhl).
SERIALS.—Journal of the Anthropological Institute, May (K. Paul).—Bulletin of the American Mathematical Society, May (New York, Macmillan).—Proceedings of the Physical Society of London, June (Taylor).—Report of the Marlborough College Natural History Society, 1894 (Marlborough).—Journal of the Chemical Society, June (Gurney).—Geological Magazine, June (Dulau).—Phycological Memoirs, Part 3 (Dulau).—Ethnographische Beiträge zur Kenntnis des Karolinen Archipels, 3 Heft (Leiden, Trap).—Natural History of Plants, Part 13; Kerner and Oliver (Blackie).—American Journal of Science, June (New Haven).—Materials for a Flora of the Malayan Peninsula, No. 7: Dr. G. King (Calcutta).—Journal of the Asiatic Society of Bengal, Vol. lxxiii. Part 2, No. 4 (Calcutta).—Ditto Vol. lxxiv. Part 2, No. 1 (Calcutta).—Science Progress, June (Scientific Press, Ltd.).—Strand Magazine, June (Newnes).—Picture Magazine, June (Newnes).—Engineering Magazine, June (Tucker).

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