

PHILADELPHIA.

Academy of Natural Sciences, June 9.—Papers under the following titles were presented for publication:—"Contributions to a knowledge of the Hymenoptera of Brazil," by Wm. J. Fox; "The Correct Position of the Aperture of Planorbis," by Frank C. Baker; "The Mesenteries of the Lacerti ia," by E. D. Cope; "Revision of the Slugs of North America—Ariolimax and Aphallion," by Henry A. Pilsbry and E. G. Vanatta.—Dr. Harrison Allen made a communication on forms considered specific, but which were merely instances of arrested development. He referred in illustration to certain species of *Vespertilio*, claiming that *Lucifugus* is merely an arrested form of *Gryphus*, the species *Albescens* also being based on similar characters. He had applied the term pædomorphism to the condition which had been worked out, he believed, only among the bats, and by himself. He held that the specific names of such forms were not valid, and should be dropped. Dr. George H. Horn stated that many such instances of arrested development were found among insects. He referred to the dimorphic males of *Eupsalis minuta*, a rhynchophorous beetle on which a French writer had founded three species. The egg-depositing habits of the female, and the assistance rendered when necessary by the male, were commented on.

June 8 (Botanical Section).—A paper was read from Mr. Thomas Meehan on *Erigeron strigosus*. A tendency of the ray florets to become discoidal, together with an acceleration from the lingulate to the discoid condition, was noted. The hermaphrodite state of the flower is not established until the tubular condition becomes permanent.—Dr. Ida A. Keller recorded the fact that if a cold alcoholic solution of chlorophyll be treated with benzol, the chlorophyll will be extracted and float as a green film on the surface of the liquid.

NEW SOUTH WALES.

Linnean Society, May 27.—Mr. Henry Deane, President, in the chair.—Observations on *Peripatus*, by Thomas Steel. In this paper was embodied an extended series of observations on the habits and characteristics, food supply and life-history, with remarks on the individual range of colours, and relative proportions of the sexes, based on the examination of numerous living specimens of various ages kept under continuous observation for more than a year.—Descriptions of new Australian Fungi, (No. 1), by D. McAlpine.—Description of a new species of *Astratum* from New Britain, by C. Hedley and Dr. Arthur Willey. *A. moniliferum* (n. sp.), allied to the Japanese *A. triumphans*; dredged in 30 to 40 fathoms on a shelly bottom.—On a rare variation in the shell of *Pterocera lambis* (Linn.), by Dr. Arthur Willey. A series of sixty-seven specimens of this common tropical species from New Britain and the Eastern Archipelago of New Guinea has been examined. Numerous instances of substantive variation were met with, the more striking of which relate to the curvature of the digitations, their length, the intervals between them, and the extent to which the apical whorls of the shell are involved in, concealed by, or fused with the posterior digitation. There is also much variation as to the stage of growth at which the deposition of callus on the outer lip of the shell takes place.

AMSTERDAM.

Royal Academy of Sciences, May 30.—Prof. van de Sande Bakhuyzen in the chair.—Prof. Hubrecht gave a description of the embryonic vesicle of *Tarsius spectrum*, and pointed out its close resemblance to that of man and monkeys. From this and from the placentation the author concluded that the order of Primates should henceforth embrace only the Hominidæ, the Simiæ, Tarsius, and the fossil Anaptomorphus. He was, moreover, disinclined to admit the possibility of deriving the placental arrangements, and the peculiarities of the clastocyst of the Primates from what is presented by the *Lemures*. The Primates should be derived from certain unknown insectivorous mammals of the Mesozoic period, of which the recent *Erinaceus* and *Gymnura* might perhaps prove to be the least distant relatives.—Prof. Pekelharing described a new method of preparing pepsin.—Prof. Schoute read a paper on the area of parabole of higher order, and, on behalf of Prof. Holleman, a communication to the effect that already some months ago he obtained the isophenylnitromethane recently described by Hantzsch and Schulze, and that his results were identical with those arrived at by these chemists. Mr. Holleman has also studied the reaction between benzoylchloride and the sodium compound

of phenylnitromethane, and in doing so obtained dibenzohydroxyamic acid.—Prof. Franchimont described isomers of neutral nitramines. They were obtained by Mr. van Erp both from the potassium compounds and the silver compounds of the acid nitramines; in the first case as a secondary product, in the second case as the principal product. Their boiling points and their specific gravity are lower than those of the nitramines; moreover, they are strongly affected by sulphuric acid, with the formation of gases, which is not the case with nitramines. By decomposition with alkali solutions, butylmethylnitramine yielded butylamine, while the isomer produced butyl alcohol; so that it seems as if in the first case butyl is united with nitrogen, in the second with oxygen. By the action of methylnitramine potassium upon allylbromide, Dr. H. Umbgrove obtained, besides allylmethylnitramine, also an isomer with a lower boiling-point, and acting violently upon sulphuric acid. A similar isomer seems also to be produced, in addition to ordinary dimethylnitramine, when methylnitramine is heated by itself, while nitrous oxide escapes. When heated with β -naphthol nitrogen escapes, and β -naphtholmethyl ether is formed, besides colouring matters.—Prof. Kamerlingh Onnes presented a communication concerning the measurement of low temperatures, and (on behalf of Mr. E. van Everdingen, jun.) (1) remarks on the method of observing Hall's effect; (2) measurements on the dissymmetry of Hall's effect in bismuth, and on the average Hall-effect in bismuth and antimony, carried out in the Leyden physical laboratory.

BOOKS, PAMPHLETS, and SERIALS RECEIVED.

BOOKS.—Skertchly's Physical Geography, revised edition (Murby).—Practical Radiography: H. S. Ward ("Photogram," Ltd.).—Beginner's Guide to Photography, 6th edition (Perken).—The Universal Law of the Affinities of Atoms: J. H. Loader (Chapman).

PAMPHLETS.—Absolute Oder relative Bewegung? Dr. B. and I. Friedlaender (Berlin, Simion).—The Position of Argon and Helium among the Elements: Prof. W. Ramsay (Frowde).

SERIALS.—Lloyd's Natural History. Butterflies: W. F. Kirby, Part 2 (Lloyd).—Scribner's Magazine, July (Low).—Humanitarian, July (Hutchinson).—Journal of the Royal Agricultural Society of England, Vol. vii, Part 2, No. 26 (Murray).—A Monograph of the Land and Fresh-water Mollusca of the British Isles: J. W. Taylor, Part 3 (Leeds, Taylor).—Bulletin de la Société de Géographie, 4^e Trimestre, 1895 (Paris).—Astronomical Journal, April and June (Chicago).—Fortnightly Review, July (Chapman).—Sitzungsberichte der Physikalisch-Medicinischen Societät in Erlangen, 27 Heft. 95 (Erlangen).—Proceedings of the Society for Psychical Research, June (K. Paul).—Westminster Review, July (Warne).—Geographical Journal, July (Stanford).—Annals of Scottish Natural History, July (Edinburgh, Douglas).—Mind, July (Williams).

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