the mandibles, which are pierced for the purpose of emission of the poisonous fluid, which he had not however detected in *Lithobius*.

"A memoir on the Sectional Characters in the genus *Lucanus*." By J. O. Westwood, F.L.S.

After alluding to the prevalence of certain characters apparently of *immaterial* importance in the economy of insects, such as the number of joints in the antennæ, the number and position of the veins in the wings, &c., which nevertheless from their constancy afford excellent *artificial* points of distinction, the author alludes to the difficulties he had experienced in adopting sectional characters in the genus *Lucanus* of modern authors, now consisting of nearly 150 species; and to the employment of the number of spines on the outer edge of the middle and posterior tibiæ in the different sexes, which in many species he had observed to differ in this respect: whence the species form three primary groups:—

1. Those with two or three spines on the outside of the four hind tibiæ.

2. Those with only one spine in the middle of the four posterior tibiæ in both sexes.

3. Those in which the four posterior tibiæ are either destitute of spines, or have them furnished in the middle with one minute spine in the females alone.

The commencement of a memoir on the Life and Writings of Fabricius, translated (with additions) from the Danish. By the Rev. F. W. Hope.

Mr. A. White stated that an extended memoir on Fabricius has been published by the Baron Walckenaer in the 'Biographie Universelle.'

It was announced that the Address delivered by Mr. G. Newport at the adjourned Anniversary Meeting had been printed, and was ready for delivery to the Members.

Mr. E. Doubleday, in allusion to the noise made by the genus *Termes*, as stated in Captain Boyes's letter, mentioned that he had recently examined *Peridromia Feronia*, the butterfly described by Mr. C. Darwin, in his 'Tour,' as making a noise during flight like the rustling of parchment, and that he had detected a small membranous sac at the base of the fore-wings, with a structure along the subcostal nervure like an Archimedean screw or diaphragm in the tracheæ, especially at the dilated base of the wing.

April 7th.—The Rev. F. W. Hope, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

Mr. Louis Fraser exhibited, on behalf of Mr. Balfour, a large case of Brazilian insects.

Mr. Westwood exhibited specimens of the singular chrysalis of the genus *Simulium*, which is found attached to the underside of the leaves of the watercress. Also a box containing a considerable number of specimens (belonging to more than twenty species) of *Paussidæ*, several of which (being new) had been forwarded to him by Captain Boyes. He also exhibited and opened at the meeting one of the large balls of earth formed by the Indian *Copris Molossus*, also

forwarded by Captain Boyes, the interior of which was found to contain a mass of dried dung, partially eaten, and a dead larva.

Mr. A. White exhibited drawings of various remarkable species of Crustacea, and read the description of a new genus of *Brachyura* somewhat allied in appearance to *Plagusia* of Latreille.

"The two divisions of *Plagusia* and *Grapsus* were formed by Latreille and Lamarck for the reception of certain Crabs, to which, from their square carapace and frequently perpendicular sides, Latreille gave the name of *Quadrilatères*. By De Haan the former of these genera has been divided into two, his *Philyra depressa* being founded on the *Cancer depressus* figured by Herbst, while he retains the name of *Plagusia* for those species of which the *Cancer squamosus* of Herbst (i. 260. t. 20. f. 113) is the type: of this last group he is acquainted with four species, two of which he describes. Professor Edwards only sectionally divides the genus *Plagusia*, and describes a new species from the Cape under the name of *Pl. tomentosa*. A careful perusal and comparison of the description given by Linnæus of his *Cancer Chabrus* (M. L. U. Reg. 438) has made me consider the *Plagusia tomentosa* synonymous with the Linnæan species; in which case *P. Chabrus* must stand in the list for *P. tomentosa*. Were there any just ground for separating the *Plagusiæ depressa* and *tomentosa*, the name *Philyra*, De Haan, ought to be changed, because already used for one of the genera of the Leucosiadous family of Crustacea.

"Without referring to the divisions of the marked group called *Grapsus*, I may here exhibit a sketch of a most remarkably formed genus from one of the Government voyages, somewhat allied to *Plagusia*, but differing much from it in appearance and even in family.

"Telmessus, White. *Carapace depressed, somewhat pentagonal, the latero-anterior sides being the longest; the latero-posterior sides have two teeth in the middle, the latero-anterior sides have two broad dentated teeth between the external angle of orbit and the strongly developed, wide dentated division, the end of which forms one of the prominent angles of the carapace; the beak is very wide, and is formed of three broad teeth, the lateral forming the internal angle of orbit; the central is the widest, and by three notches at the end is divided into four small teeth; the inner antennæ are small, and not contained within a groove of front; the outer antennæ are very large, two basal joints thick and strong, and project beyond notch of front. The external pedipalps have the 3rd joint pointed at the end; it is oblong-ovate. Legs very long, compressed; tarsi longer than the joint before them, somewhat compressed.*

"Telmessus serratus. *Surface covered with small warts arranged in some places in lines, with hairs proceeding from the front of them.*

"The specimen is a male."

The following papers were also read:—

"Description of a new genus of Lamellicorn Beetles apparently belonging to the family *Aphodiidæ*, from India." By J. O. Westwood, F.L.S.

Chætopisthes, Westw. *Corpus oblongum, glabrum, dorso valde*