

April 6, 1886.

Prof. W. H. Flower, LL.D., F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following report on the additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March 1886 :—

The total number of registered additions to the Society's Menagerie during the month of March was 121. Of these 6 were by birth, 58 by presentation, 11 by purchase, 1 by exchange and 45 were received on deposit. The total number of departures during the same period, by death and removals, was 127.

The most noticeable additions during the month were :—

1. A second specimen of the Rough-billed Pelican of North America (*Pelecanus trachyrhynchus*)¹, purchased March 2nd.

2. An example of the White-tailed Ichneumon (*Herpestes albicauda*) from Lamoo, East Africa, presented by F. J. Jackson, Esq., F.Z.S., March 4th.

The Secretary exhibited, on behalf of J. B. Martin, Esq., F.Z.S., a large tusk of the Indian Elephant (*Elephas indicus*) belonging to the executors of the late Charles Reade, of which the length was stated to be 6 feet, and the weight over 100 pounds. The tusk was stated to have belonged to a "rogue Elephant" which had only one tusk, and which had been killed at Goruckpore in 1836, when the late Charles Reade was magistrate there.

Mr. Sclater exhibited the heads and horns of two species of Antelopes received by Lord Walsingham from Mr. F. J. Jackson, F.Z.S., having been obtained in the vicinity of Lamoo, East Africa. One of these belong to an adult specimen of *Strepsiceros imberbis*, Blyth; the two others to *Damalis senegalensis*, which, so far as Mr. Sclater knew, had not been previously obtained in this district. *Strepsiceros imberbis* had been already met with as far south as the Juba River on this coast².

Dr. H. Woodward exhibited specimens of animals commensal or parasitic in the shell of *Meleagrina margaritifera*, the Pearl-mussel, from the north coast of Australia, and read the following notes :—

"The Pearl-shell fishery is now a recognized and important branch of the commerce of Western Australia, and also of Queensland and South Australia, which Colonies own the rights of the northern shores of that vast continent.

"Mr. Thomas Harry Haynes has given me much interesting information regarding the pearl-shell fishery carried on by him and

¹ For notice of previous specimen see P. Z. S. 1883, p. 463, plate xlvi.

² See P. Z. S. 1884, p. 45.

his partners on the N.W. coast of Australia, and has submitted many shells to me which had been attacked by lithodomous Mollusca, or by worms and the burrows of *Cliona*.

“Some of these I have now the pleasure to exhibit. I have, moreover, to-day been permitted by Prof. Flower to examine a still more interesting specimen which he has just received from Henry Willett, Esq., F.G.S., of Arnold House, Brighton.

“It is that of a specimen of *Pinnotheres* which has been entombed in a cyst of pearl by a living pearl-mussel, into the shell of which he had ventured to intrude.

“It seems extraordinary and beyond belief that the *Meleagrina* should of all the Conchifera be the one to resent the commensalism of the Pea-crab, which has been known since the days of Cicero, Pliny, Oppian, and Aristotle to inhabit the shell of the *Pinna* and the Oyster, and has been recorded from *Astarte*, *Pectunculus*, and at least some half-dozen other bivalves, with whom it appears to live on the most friendly terms.

“It is the females, however, which constantly reside within the shells of the Conchifera, whilst the males are said to avail themselves of favourable opportunities to visit the females in their retirement.

“Whether or not in this case the unlucky male intruded himself upon *Meleagrina* at an unfavourable period, and finding no female *Pinnotheres*, penetrated so far beneath the mantle of the Pearl-mussel as to be unable to retreat, one thing is quite clear, namely that the *Meleagrina* entombed the intruder in a cyst of pearl from which the clever pearl-button maker alone liberated him.

“There is a large series of *Pinnotheres* in the Museum: the one from Australia is referred to *P. orientalis*, but as these are all females comparison is useless. These are from shells of *Pinna*, *Donax*, and *Pectunculus*. There are others from Broken Bay.

“Prof. Dana, U.S. Expl. Expedition, 1852, part i. text, pp. 380–381, and Atlas, pl. 24. fig. 3, describes a species under the name of *P. obesa* from Fiji Islands. The male, however, is said to be slightly broader than long, and the eyes (which in the adult female are quite hidden beneath the overreaching and protuberant carapace) can be seen in the upper view, and the front of the carapace is emarginated by the orbits. (Size $4\frac{3}{4}$ lines long, and $6\frac{1}{2}$ broad.)

“Mr. Willett’s specimen is slightly longer than broad, and in size agrees very nearly with the male of *P. pisum*, which was formerly described by Leach as *P. latreillei*.”

The following papers were read:—