

voyage to Hong Kong from San Francisco and back by way of Java and India. *Balanus tintinabulum* was the commonest of the species represented; the varieties *zebra* and *spinosus*, although growing under identical conditions, retained their individuality perfectly.

The question of the constancy of varietal characters was debated by Messrs. Sharp, Pilsbry and Heilprin.

Mr. Pilsbry also described a specimen of *Pugnus parvus*, a Ringiculate mollusk. The species is involute, a unique character, none of the fossil forms of the family possessing it. He also described a Central American Melanian under the name *Pachycheilus Dalli*. It is distinguished by a remarkable double sinuation of the outer lip which has a deep and wide Pleurotonoid sinus above and a rounded, projecting lobe in the middle, below which it is again retracted.

On the nomination of the Entomological Section, Dr. Henry Skinner was elected Professor in the Department of Insecta.

In response to an invitation from the Committee having charge of the celebration of the fiftieth year of Lord Kelvin's tenure of office as Professor of Natural Philosophy in the University of Glasgow, General Isaac Jones Wistar was appointed to represent the Academy on the occasion.

Entomological Section, Dr. Henry Skinner, Recorder, March 25.—Dr. Geo. H. Horn made a communication regarding the synonymy of the Elateridæ. He specially described the prosternum of *Ludius*. A Lower California form had the prosternum of different shape from that of other members of the genus, the mesosternum being more protuberant. It will probably be referred to *Probothrium*.

Mr. Chas. S. Welles exhibited specimens of the larva of *Harrisimemna trisignata*. When full grown they bore into wood preparatory to changing into crysalids.

A paper was read entitled 'The breeding habits of *Periplaneta orientalis*,' by C. Few Seiss. Three females deposited twenty-five egg cases. Each of these contained sixteen eggs, so that a new generation of four hundred cockroaches was represented by the deposit. The first of these egg cases were dropped May 5 and 14,

1895, and were hatched November 9th. In most cases the deposits were dropped with no attempt at concealment, although in a few instances they were placed in little trenches made by the insect and then covered up. The development of the capsules was described. The young probably receive no maternal care or protection.

Mr. Lancaster Thomas exhibited an improved form of insect net frame made of a continuous piece of rounded aluminum wire.

Mr. Westcott suggested linoleum as a substitute for cork in the arrangement of insects. Dr. Henry Skinner called attention to a fungus, *Polyporus betulinus*, which might be used for the same purpose with advantage.

Mr. Wm. J. Fox stated that about ninety species of Hymenoptera, six of which were perhaps new to science, were included in the collection of insects brought by Dr. A. Donaldson Smith from western Somali Land, Africa.

EDWARD J. NOLAN,
Recording Secretary.

NEW BOOKS.

Text-book of Comparative Anatomy, Part II.

ARNOLD LANG; translated by Henry M. Bernard and Matilda Bernard. London and New York, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. xvi+618. \$5.50.

Memoirs of Frederick A. P. Barnard. JOHN FULTON. New York and London, Columbia University Press, Macmillan & Co. 1896. Pp. xii+485. \$4.00.

Water Supply. WILLIAM P. MASON. New York, John Wiley & Sons. London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1896. Pp. iv+504.

A Dictionary of the Names of Minerals. ALBERT HUNTINGTON CHESTER. New York, John Wiley & Sons. London, Chapman & Hall, Ltd. 1896. Pp. xv+320.

Geschichte der Explosivstoffe. S. J. ROMOCKI. Volumes 1 and 2. Berlin, Robert Oppenheimer. 1895, 1896. Pp. vi+394, xiv+324. M 12.

Twenty-first Annual Report of the Secretary of the State Board of Health of Michigan. Lansing, Robert Smith & Co. 1895. Pp. cxxiv+444.