On the Early Development of Chimæra. Bashford Dean.

Emphasis was laid on the similarity of the embryonic characters of Chimeroid and Elasmobranch.

Amphiuma and the Cœcilians. J. S. Kingsley.

The various statements which had been advanced to show the relationships of *Amphiuma* and *Cœcilians* were considered, and it was pointed out that these statements were almost entirely based upon misinterpretation or misconception. The differences between the two were then emphasized, and it was shown that the structural features were opposed to the view of Cope that the Cæcilians had descended from an Amphiuma-like form, and to that of the Sarasins that *Amphiuma* was a neoteric Cæcilian. In the possession of an ethmoid, in structure of vertebræ, in the relations of palatine and trigeminal nerves, in structure of nephridia and genitalia and in circulatory apparatus, the Cæcilians differ from *Amphiuma* and from all Urodeles, and the group must be regarded as entirely distinct from Urodeles, and as having descended directly from some Stegocephalan ancestor.

Vertebral Intercalation in Necturus. (Read by title.) H. C. Bumpus.

Brachial and Lumbo-sacral Plexi in Necturus. F. C. Waite.

In *Necturus maculosus* the normal position of the pelvic girdle is with attachment to the 19th vertebra, but in about one-fourth the cases it is attached to the 20th vertebra. Unfrequent cases are found in which the attachment is asymmetrical, the sacral rib on one side being one segment anterior to that on the other side.

Study of the plexi in a series of specimens shows: (*a*) that the position of the brachial plexus does not vary with displacement of pelvic girdle, and so it is improbable that intercalation of vertebræ occurs anterior to the posterior spinal nerve (V) involved in this plexus; (*b*) with normal position of pelvic girdle there are two prevalent types of topography of the lumbo-sacral plexus which depend upon the manner of branching of the spinal nerves to form the crural nerve, and further that there is considerable variation in the strength of the nerves involved, causing a shifting within narrow limits of the 'source center' of the plexus. (*c*) When the girdle is attached to 20th vertebra the plexus shows a displacement posteriorly, but not in a corresponding degree through an entire segment. It thus occupies a position intermediate between the normal position and what would be its position were it displaced through an entire segment. (*d*) Where the girdle is attached asymmetrically the plexus does not show corresponding asymmetry, but is essentially symmetrical in one of the two segments involved.

The intermediate position of the plexus, the occurrence of symmetrical variation in position of girdle; of asymmetrically placed girdles and of supernumerary sacral ribs, appears to be explicable not upon ground of intercalation of vertebra nor of slipping of girdle during ontogeny, but upon the hypothesis that there are several segments in this region, in any one of which a girdle may be developed.

Discovery of a Huge Octopus on the Coast of Florida. A. E. Verrill.

The following officers were elected: President, C. S. Minot, Harvard; Vice-President, S. I. Smith, Yale; Secretary-Treasurer, G. H. Parker, Harvard; Members of the Executive Committee from the Society at large, J. S. Kingsley, Tufts, and Bashford Dean, Columbia.

G. H. Parker,

Harvard University. *Secretary.*