ample ever found since Cuming collected his shell on the coast of Ecuador. Mr. Olsson's specimen is younger and smaller than the type, but is undoubtedly a valve of this very striking and rare species.

An examination of this shell proves that *Arca lithodomus* is not an *Arca (Barbatia) candida* of abnormal type, for it is clearly an undistorted specimen. Moreover, it is not a member of the subgenus *Barbatia*. Dr. Pearl Sheldon, the *Arca* expert, pronounces it a true Ark. Therefore, the rediscovery by Mr. Olsson, in Panama, of Cuming's Ecuadorean shell proves (1) that *Arca lithodomus* Sowerby is a valid species; (2) that the shell belongs to *Arca, sensu stricto;* (3) that the section *Litharca* Gray is unnecessary; (4) the range of the species is extended from about Lat. 1° South to approximately Lat. 7° 30′ North.

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THE GEOGRAPHICAL DISTRIBUTION OF HYBRIDS

IN a former number of this journal, Professor Fernald has done me the honor of stating that he is glad to have my confirmation of his "thesis" in regard to the geographical distribution of hybrids between natural species. As my statement was merely a brief summary of the views of the eminent Austrian systematic botanist, Kerner von Marilaun, Professor Fernald does me undeserved honor, and at the same time is unfortunately guilty of an anachronism. Kerner's views on hybrids were known to the world some time before Professor Fernald's star arose on the horizon.

I think I made it clear in my former statement, that according to Kerner, natural hybrids may occur not only within the range of the parent species, but *also beyond the range of one or both of them.* The situation indicated by the words in italics is clearly not in accord with the tenor of Professor Fernald's biting criticisms of the recent work of Brainerd Peitersen on the blackberries of New England. He repeatedly condemns these authors for entertaining the heterodox idea that a hybrid can occur beyond the geographic range of one of its parent species. In this attitude my colleague is obviously not in harmony with Kerner. It may be emphasized that Kerner's views possess a peculiar authority, not only because he devoted himself especially to the study of hybrids in nature, but also because he was fortunate enough to live in a region where the Pontic, Mediterranean, and Baltic floras overlap.

I am loath to attribute to my colleague the intentionally ambiguous language of an oracle, or the "weasel words" of the aspiring politician. His statements, however, appear to keep the word of promise to the ear, while breaking it to the hope, as in that Shakespearian tragedy where a forest undergoes an interesting geographic migration, not due to the mineral characteristics of the substratum.

E. C. JEFFREY

THE RAY SOCIETY

ALL interested in natural history are familiar with the publications of the Ray Society. Since its establishment over three quarters of a century ago this society has published annually one or more volumes in the biological sciences. Its object is to issue works which from the expense of illustration or other causes could not profitably be brought out by an ordinary publisher. In this way have appeared Agassiz's four volumes of Bibliography, Darwin's "Cirripedia," Allman's "Tubularian Hydroids" and "Freshwater Polyzoa," Alder and Hancock's "Nudibranches," West's "Desmids," Cash and Wailes's "Rhizopods and Heliozoa," Groves and Bullock-Webster's "Charophyta," and Lucas's "Orthoptera."

The annual subscription to the society is at present one guinea, in return for which the subscriber receives the annual volumes and has the privilege of purchasing, at a reduction from the published price, one copy each of any of the society's works already issued and remaining in stock. Subscribers for 1921 will receive for that year one of the