

December 21, 1854.

The LORD WROTTESLEY, President, in the Chair.

James Allman, M.D., was admitted into the Society.

The following communications were read :—

- I. "Remarks on the Anatomy of the *Macgillivrayia pelagica* and *Cheletropis Huxleyi* (Forbes); suggesting the establishment of a new genus of Gasteropoda." By JOHN D. MACDONALD, R.N., Assistant-Surgeon H.M.S. Herald. Communicated by Sir W. BURNETT, K.C.B. &c. Received November 23, 1854.

Having examined the anatomy of the *Macgillivrayia pelagica* and several smaller species of pelagic Gasteropoda, not exhibiting the least similarity in the character of their shells, the author found that they all presented a very close relationship to each other in the type of their respiratory organs, and in other points of structure of less importance.

The gills in every instance seemed to be fixed to the body of the animal immediately behind the head, and did not appear to be appended to the mantle, as in the Pectinibranchiata properly so called. They were also invariably four in number, and arranged in a cruciform manner round a central point. They were free in the rest of their extent, elongated and flattened in form, with a pointed extremity, and fringed with long flowing cilia, set in a frilled border. They were, moreover, furnished with muscular fibres, both transverse and longitudinal, and exhibited great mobility when protruded, but lay side by side in the last whorl of the shell when retracted.

The auditory capsules, each containing a spherical otolith, were

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closely applied to the inner and posterior part of the larger or anterior ganglion of the subœsophageal mass.

There were two tentacula, each bearing at the outer side of its base an eye consisting of a globular lens with optic nerve and retinal expansion. The foot was large and very mobile, but a vesicular float has been observed only in *Macgillivrayia*.

The respiratory siphon was either a simple fold of the mantle forming a temporary tube (*Cheletropis*), or a fold whose borders were united through their whole length, leaving an aperture at the end, as in *Macgillivrayia*.

A lingual ribbon with well-marked rachis and pleuræ occurs in all the species. Very perfect labial plates with closely-set dental points arm the mouth in some instances, and probably in all.

The little animals possessing in common the characters here described, nevertheless fabricate shells so very different as to admit of their division into well-marked genera.

The author conceives that the obvious difference between the pectinibranchiate type of respiratory organs and that observed in the group of Gasteropoda now under consideration, affords sufficient grounds for placing the latter in a distinct order by themselves; and as illustrations of it he proceeds to give some details of the structure of the two species mentioned in the title of the paper, whose shells have been already described by the late Prof. E. Forbes, and figured in Mr. Macgillivray's 'Narrative of the Voyage of H.M.S. Rattlesnake.'

In *Macgillivrayia* the disc of the foot is broad and connected by a narrow attachment to the body just beneath the neck; it carries an operculum behind, and is cleft by a notch in front. A raphe observable in the median line, as well indeed as the whole character of this part of the organ, seems to shadow forth the transformation of the single foot of the Gasteropod into the wing-like expansion of the Pteropod.

After describing the labial plates and lingual strap, the eyes and the branchiæ, the author observes that the tubular siphon protrudes from the shell on the left side and seems to indicate the coexistence of a respiratory chamber with naked branchiæ.

The vesicular float, like that of *Ianthina*, noticed by Mr. Macgillivray, consists of an aggregation of vesicles varying both in number

and size in different cases. It is exceedingly delicate, and could not be found in the specimens first obtained, having probably been destroyed or detached from the foot by the force of the water running through the meshes of the net with which they were captured. Its coexistence with an operculum shows that it is not a modification of the latter.

Of the *Cheletropis Huxleyi*, numerous specimens were found in Bass's Straits and in the South Pacific, between Sydney and Lord Howe's Island.

After giving some details respecting the shell and the foot, the author observes that the latter organ was destitute of float, at least in the specimens he obtained, but was furnished with an operculum, which, probably from its extreme thinness and smallness, had escaped the notice of Professor Forbes. He then points out the peculiarities of the respiratory apparatus.

The portion of the mantle which forms the respiratory siphon, is short, and its opposite edges are merely in apposition, without organic union. The branchiæ are of two kinds, covered and naked. The covered gill is single but of considerable length. It is beautifully pectinated, and fringed with long cilia, and, doubtless, represents the respiratory organ of the pectinibranchiate Gasteropoda. The basis of this part is a long and narrow strip of a tough and fibrous material, folded upon itself into a series of loops invested with a coating of epithelium, and richly ciliated along the free border. The naked gills are four in number, similar both in situation and character to those of *Macgillivrayia*. Each gill is of an oval or elongated form, presenting a thin, frilled and corrugated border, beset with long whip-like cilia. In the central parts muscular fibres are distinctly discernible, some disposed lengthwise and others transversely.

The lingual strap is next described, as well as two file-like triturating plates with which the mouth is furnished.

The two tentacula of each side appear as it were enclosed in one envelope, so as to form a single tactile instrument, which bears a large dark eye on its outer side near the base. To this latter organ the tegumentary covering forms a kind of cornea, beneath which is a spherical lens resting on a mass of black pigment, both being enclosed in a little sac; and the optic nerve, emerging from the sub-

œsophageal ganglion, joins the miniature globe and expands into a retina. The author was unable to trace an opening through the pigment for the passage of light, but thinks it probable that, as in the ocelli of insects, such an aperture exists in the central part. The auditory capsules are situated at some distance behind the eyes, and may be distinctly seen with the microscope when the surrounding parts are carefully removed with fine needles. They are of a rounded or oval form, and each contains a beautifully transparent and highly refracting otolithe, much larger than the lens of the eye.

The paper was accompanied with drawings illustrating the principal points mentioned in the description.

- II. A paper was in part read, entitled, "On the Development of Striated Muscular Fibre in Mammalia." By WILLIAM S. SAVORY, M.D., F.R.C.S., Tutor of St. Bartholomew's Hospital Medical College. Communicated by JAMES PAGET, Esq. Received December 9, 1854.

The Society then adjourned over the Christmas recess, to meet again on the 11th of January next.

*January 11, 1855.*

THOMAS BELL, Esq., V.P., in the Chair.

- I. The reading of Mr. SAVORY's paper "On the Development of Muscular Fibre in Mammalia," was resumed and concluded.

The author's observations were made chiefly upon fœtal pigs, but they have been confirmed by repeated examinations of the embryos of many other animals, and of the human fœtus.

If a portion of tissue immediately beneath the surface from the dorsal region of a fœtal pig, from one to two inches in length, be