

TWELFTH ORDINARY MEETING.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, April 3rd, 1876.

JOHN BIRKBECK NEVINS, M.D., Ex-PRESIDENT, in
the Chair.

Ladies were present at the Meeting.

Mr. ALFRED LUTSCHAUNIG exhibited a specimen of Apatite or Phosphorite, and made some remarks thereon.

Lieutenant CAMERON, R.N., who had arrived in Liverpool the previous day, on his return from his perilous journey across the Continent of Africa, was introduced to the Meeting by Mr. A. Morgan, and was received with acclamations.

Mr. W. T. BLACK, Surgeon-Major, then read a Paper on "The Partridges of South Africa, and Partridge Shooting in the Great Winterberg District, Cape of Good Hope,"* and was followed by Dr. NICHOLSON, who read a Paper on "Indian Snakes."†

Mr. HIGGIN called attention to two specimens of the genus *Luffaria*, brought to the Free Museum by Capt. J. A. Perry, Associate of the Society, from Port-au-Prince, the apertures of the tubes of which retain the "duplicatures of dermal sarcode, which in a ring-like form surround the openings, and perform the sphinctral diaphragmatic office common to vents generally," as in the specimen in the British Museum, obtained fresh by Admiral Spratt, in the East Mediterranean, and preserved in spirit. (*Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, September, 1875, ser. 4, vol. xvi., p. 227.)Capt. PERRY, who was present at the meeting, exhibited the head, neck, and pouch of a Brown Pelican (*Pelecanus fuscus*,

* See page 289.

† See page 211.

Linnaeus), and stated that he had found three different kinds of parasites infesting this bird—one peculiar to the pouch, a *Trinotion*, the males of which are remarkable for a stout curved obtuse spine, rugose at the summit, arising from the inner inferior angle of each tibia, having of course a sexual signification. The females are unarmed. It is believed to be new to science, and it is suggested that it should receive the name of *Trinotion bursa-pelecani*. This species is, as has been stated, limited to the pouch, none having been found on the body, though a minute search, on the occasion of a second bird having been procured, was instituted, with the view of determining any doubts as to its peculiar habitat. One or two only, obviously escapes, having been taken on the head and beak. Two other species, however, belonging to the feather-eating genera, *Colpocephalon* and *Lipeurus*, were procured from the body. Both are handsome species. Neither has yet been identified, but will probably be found common to many marine birds. Specimens of the above parasites, beautifully mounted as microscopic objects, were presented by Capt. Perry for the cabinet of the Museum.

THIRTEENTH ORDINARY MEETING.

ROYAL INSTITUTION, April 17th, 1876.

J. A. PICTON, F.S.A., PRESIDENT, in the Chair.

Ladies were present at this Meeting.

Mr. ARTHUR NEVINS, on the introduction of Dr. Nevins, read a communication explaining a method of correcting the rate of a marine chronometer for change of temperature, according to Hartnup's laws. He also contributed a set of