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Achillea tanacetifolia, all

C.C.B.

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Method by which all objects may be polarized under the Microscope."

The analyser consists of a double image prism placed over the eye-piece of the instrument, and a plate of selenite is then put upon the stage; the edges of the field will then appear coloured, while the centre remains colourless. Any object introduced into the field will exhibit the effects of polarized light with great intensity and purity of colour.

MISCELLANEOUS.

ADDENDUM TO THE BIRDS OF CORFU.

Platalea leucorodia, the Spoonbill or White Spoonbill.

Corfu, Nov. 15, 1846.

THIS bird, according to Yarrell, is still an occasional summer visitor in England, has been noticed by Mr. Robert Ball in Ireland, by Mr. Eyton in Wales, and by Sibbald and Fleming in the Scottish islands. Of the northern regions its favourite summer resort is Holland, and Temminck says that it is nowhere so abundant as there. In winter it seeks a warmer abode, and flocks amongst other southern localities to the salt-marshes or sea-coast of Italy, being specially abundant, says Temminck, at Cagliari in Sardinia. In these islands the naturalist has not as yet recorded the Spoonbill, and the occurrence of the present bird, the young of the year, is therefore highly interesting, as offering another line or belt of migration. I received the bird with the blood quite fresh upon it on the 31st of October, and therefore conclude it was shot in the island itself. I was unable to ascertain from the bird-dealer (not the sportsman) who brought it whether others had been seen, but I conclude, as the bird was one of the year, or at least an immature bird, as shown by the beak and quill-feathers, and by the absence of elongated occipital feathers, that it was not alone in its flight.—J. E. PORTLOCK.

Corfu, Nov. 23, 1846.

Platalea leucorodia. On inquiry I find that the Spoonbill recorded by me as appearing at the close of October was one of a flock of about seven birds, three of which, all immature, like the one noticed by me, were shot. Signor Gangadi informs me, that though rare at Corfu it has been occasionally observed, and that he believes it appears every season on the Albanian coast. It is recorded amongst the Dalmatian birds by Dr. Carrara in his work '*Dalmazia descritta*' now publishing.

I observe also in Dr. Carrara's work, *Aquila nœvia*, *Ardea comata*, *Sterna leucoptera*, birds added by me to the former list of Corfu birds.—J. E. PORTLOCK.

ACHILLEA TANACETIFOLIA, ALL.

This beautiful plant has been recently added to the list of British species by Mr. John Hardy. He has found it in two places, as he considers, indubitably indigenous and not an escape from cultivation,

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viz. on "Cromford Moor near Matlock, Derbyshire, July 21, 1843," and on "a rough hilly bank near Ringing Low, five miles from Sheffield, July 1844; the plant accompanied by *Vaccinium Vitis-Idæa*, &c., and growing among a profusion of *Lastræa oreopteris*." It is the *A. dentifera* (DeCand. Prod. vi. 25), but that is not separated from *A. tanacetifolia* by many, of which it seems to be only a variety.—C. C. B.

On the Characters separating the four great Divisions of the Animal Kingdom. By J. E. GRAY, F.R.S.

Great attention has been paid to the anatomical character which separates the four great divisions of the animal kingdom, but comparatively little attention has been paid to the external form of the groups and the characters furnished by their supports.

FORM AND LIMBS.

VERTEBRATA with two pair: two on each side of the body for walking or flight.

Organs of sense in pairs.

ANNULOSA with five pair: five on each side of the body, for creeping or flight.

Organs of sense in pairs.

MOLLUSCA: a single central foot for crawling.

Organs of sense in pairs.

RADIATA: a circular free or attached body.

The organs of sense in a circle.

SUPPORTED

by a permanent internal cartilaginous skeleton hardened by age, and restored and removed by the vessels like the rest of the body.

by a hardened external skin which is periodically shed.

by two lateral shelly valves* secreted by the skin and attached to the body by muscles.

by horny or calcareous matter deposited in the entire or superficial part of the cellular substance of the body, part of which is often killed by the excess of the deposit.

ON THE GENUS CALOPTYLUM.

To Richard Taylor, Esq.

Haslar Hospital, Gosport, January 12, 1847.

DEAR SIR,—In the Ichthyology of the voyage of the 'Sulphur' I described a fish from the collection of Sir Edward Belcher which I then considered to be the type of a new genus under the name of *Caloptylum*. Mr. Thompson lately called my attention to the *Bregmaceros MacClellandi* published by him in the fourth volume of your 'Annals,' p. 184 (April 1840), which is evidently of the same genus, but most probably another species. *Bregmaceros* is therefore the prior generic appellation.

I remain, faithfully yours,

JOHN RICHARDSON.

* The second valve is sometimes reduced to the form of a lid or operculum, and sometimes entirely wanting, but is often found in the foetal state when wanting in the adult animal.