and mouth, and the structure of the cell-walls, are sufficient to distinguish it from *Cribrillina*. As the only way to draw attention to it is to give it a name, I propose to form for it provisionally, until its nature is better understood, a genus named

PUSTULARIA.

Cells ovate, four- or five-angled, convex, crowded together side by side, forming a crust without any definite form; the cells closed, their entire parietes being pierced with numerous close uniform minute pores; the cavity simple; aperture small, roundish, simple at the front end of the cell (without any ovarian cells?).

1. PUSTULARIA ROSEA.

The crust rose-red, rather rugose.

Hab. Mediterranean.

8. NOTE ON THE EGG OF "THE MOORUK" (CASUARIUS BENNETTI, GOULD), FROM NEW BRITAIN, IN THE BRITISH MUSEUM. BY DR. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S., ETC.

(Aves, Pl. CXLIV.)

The British Museum having obtained from Mr. Samuel Stevens the egg of the *Mooruk* from New Britain (sent to him by Mr. Turner, which he wished to exhibit to the Society before he delivered it into the Collection), I am induced to send the following observations on it.

The egg is of the same form and has the same solid shell, covered with rounded tubercles, as that of the Common Cassowary, *Casuarus galeatus*.

It differs from the egg of the latter bird in the British Museum in being rather larger (it is $14\frac{1}{4}$ inches in circumference in the longest, and $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches in the thickest part), in the tubercles on the surface being larger, considerably further apart, and more isolated, that is to say, more rarely confluent together.

The egg is pale olive-green with darker olive tubercles; it is much darker than what I recollect of the eggs of the Cassowaries in other collections; but they may have become faded, as is the case with our specimens in the British Museum.

Mr. Bennett sent with the living specimen of the *Mooruk* now exhibited in the Menagerie, which he so liberally presented to the Society, an egg which was brought from New Britain with the bird. This egg has been presented by him, through the Society, to the British Museum.

This egg differs very considerably from that exhibited by Mr. Stevens: first, in being smaller, that is to say, only $13\frac{1}{2}$ inches in circumference in the longest and 11 inches in the thickest part; secondly, in the egg being blunter, more rounded in front, and not

so conical as the other ; thirdly, it is of a uniform pale olive-colour, without any appearance of tubercles or darker spots.

It has been suggested that the difference between the two eggs is so great that they cannot have been laid by the same species of bird. They both differ considerably from the egg of the Galeated Cassowary ; and Mrs. Turner assures me that they were both brought from New Britain, by her husband and the captain of the ship, with the living bird, to Sydney ; they were divided by lot, and he, having the choice, selected the tuberculated egg : so that, if they are not the eggs of the Mooruk, it would indicate that there must be two Cassowaries inhabiting New Britain, both different from *C. galeatus*.

There is so great a similarity in colour and texture of the smooth egg with the ground-colour of the other egg between the tubercles, that it has been suggested that the tuberculated egg is the perfect egg of the bird, and the smooth egg that of a very immature or sickly specimen ; but under any circumstances I have considered it desirable that both specimens should be figured.

May 11, 1858.

John Gould, Esq., F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The following papers were read :—

1. SYNOPSIS OF THE AMERICAN ANT-BIRDS (FORMICARIIDÆ). BY PHILIP LUTLEY SCLATER. PART III. CONTAINING THE THIRD SUBFAMILY FORMICARIINÆ, OR ANT-THRUSHES.

(Aves, Pl. CXLIII.)

Subfam. III. FORMICARIINÆ.

Habitus magis turdinus : rostrum subulatum, validiusculum, rectum, apice incurva et dente finali instructa : alæ breves : cauda brevis, plerumque brevissima, vix rotundata sed plerumque quadrata : pedes magni, ambulatorii, tarsi longi, sæpe longissimi, digitis gracilibus et elongatis : ptilosis rufa et brunnea, nigro varia : sexus plerumque similes. In terra apud sylvas densas vivunt, ibique nidificant.

It is difficult, in this as in many other cases, to draw a precise line and say where the last subfamily ought to end and the present one to begin. In order to determine this accurately, it would be desirable to know a little more of the habits and other peculiarities of some of these birds. My idea is, that the present section ought to