The author was not inclined to regard the process of gemmation, which is the more frequent mode of multiplication in these animals, as explicable on the supposition that the buds are developed from ova that have been previously impregnated, and are retained in the substance of the parent's body.

2. On the Parallel Roads of Lochaber ; with Remarks on the change of relative Levels of Sea and Land in Scotland, and on the Detrital Deposits in that Country. Part I. By David Milne, Esq.

The author, after referring to the views of former observers, stated, that though he had proceeded to Glen Roy under a strong impression that Mr Darwin's marine theory afforded a solution of the question, he had felt himself constrained, after an examination of the valleys, to abandon that theory, and that he had satisfied himself that the shelves had been formed by lakes of fresh water. He referred to the proofs still existing of the mode in which these lakes had been discharged, and he described particularly the unequivocal traces of an old river course running from the head of Glen Glaster to Loch Laggan, with a delta at the level of shelf 4 on Loch Laggan side, formed by this ancient but now extinct river.

The author considered that the blockage of the waters in the valleys had been formed of boulder-clay and other ancient detrital matter. There was proof that this detritus had been deposited in the district before the waters had begun to be depressed, as the shelves were, in some places, *indented* on the boulder-clay ; and this detrital matter must, when deposited in the valleys, have been in sufficient quantity to have dammed back the waters, as there were still abundant traces of it on the sides of the hills at a higher level than that of any of the shelves.

The author differed from Dr MacCulloch and Sir Thomas Dick Lauder, in supposing that it was necessary to assume the occurrence of an earthquake or any convulsion of nature to account for the breaking down of barriers, by which the lakes were blocked up. He considered that it was an error to assume that the first depression of the lake in Glen Roy was 82 feet, and shewed that there must have been at least three intermediate depressions ; and that after the first depression, the water must have flowed out by Glen Glaster into Glen

Spean. He adduced several considerations to shew that the blockage at the west end of Glen Roy could have been nothing else than detritus capable of being worn down and removed by the gradual operation of a stream, and in this manner be accounted for the ultimate removal of all the blockage which had previously dammed back the water in the several valleys marked by shelves.

He next adverted to the theory of Agassiz, that the waters had been blocked up by the moraine of a glacier descending from Ben Nevis;—a theory which, at the best, could not explain the formation of a lake in Glen Gluoy. The author shewed, however, that it would not explain the shelves in Glen Roy; as the two uppermost shelves, stopped short by two miles of the place where the Ben Nevis moraine is said to have been formed, and the lowest shelf went beyond this place by three or four miles.

The following Gentleman was duly elected an Ordinary Fellow :—

JAMES NICOL, Esq.

The following Donations to the Library were announced :—

Medico-Chirurgical Transactions published by the Royal Medical and Chirurgical Society of London. Vol. XXIX.—*By the Society.*

Memoirs of the Wernerian Natural History Society, for the years 1837–8. Vol. VIII., Part 1.—*By the Society.*

The Journal of Agriculture, and the Transactions of the Highland and Agricultural Society of Scotland.—*By the Society.*

Five Geological Memoirs, viz.—

Geological Features of the Mines of Taurus.

On the Gogofan Mine, Cærmarthenshire.

On the Mining Establishment of France.

On Coal and Lignite, and on Iron and Steel manufactured in France.

On the Mining Academies of Saxony and Hungary. By Warington W. Smyth, Esq.—*By the Author.*