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On oligoneuria rhenana

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traction. This is particularly worthy of note now, since, recently, Martin Barry (Müller's Arch. 1850, p. 529) has advanced the doctrine of the spiral structure of muscular fibrillæ. We have not critically examined the ground on which Barry has based his views, but from our knowledge of this tissue, the phases of its formation from the earliest to the perfect state, and the various appearances it presents in different parts of the animal kingdom, we are led to venture the conjecture that its alleged spiral structure may be due to irregularities and anomalies of contraction.—*Silliman's Journal*, Sept. 1853.

DESMARESTIA PINNATINERVIA, MONT.

Some specimens of Alga, apparently new to our Flora, found floating in Lough Foyle in August 1853, were transmitted by Mr. W. Sawers of Londonderry to the late Meeting of the British Association, which were pronounced by the authorities there present to be a state of some common *Laminaria*. There were, however, peculiarities in the nervation and structure of the specimens which made this very improbable, and in the absence of Dr. Harvey, some of the specimens fell into my hands. After a minute examination and consideration of the probable affinities of the production, I applied to Dr. Montagne for his opinion, and he at once referred it to his *Desmarestia pinnatinervia*, figured from a specimen gathered on the coast of Spain, in the October number of the 'Annales des Sciences Naturelles' for 1842. The Irish specimens are indeed rather narrower, but differ in no essential character.

The species of Dr. Montagne is considered by J. Agardh as most probably a state of the broad form of *Desmarestia ligulata*, and this view is confirmed by Messrs. Crouan, who refer it as a variety to *D. Dresnaji*, Lamouroux, which is regarded as a form of *D. ligulata* by J. Agardh.

There is however a peculiarity of structure, as noticed both by myself and Mr. Sawers, which no one seems to have recorded, namely that the dark specks with which the specimens are sprinkled, and which exist equally in Dr. Montagne's plant, consist of red creeping anastomosing beaded cells, just like those of a young *Callithamnion*. It is possible, however, that these may be extraneous. It would be very desirable to compare very young specimens of the narrow form of *D. ligulata* with Mr. Sawers's plant, and till this is done, some doubt must still exist as to the real nature of the production. The youngest individuals that I have seen, sent to me by Mrs. Griffith, though retaining their disc, are already repeatedly divided.—M. J. B.

On Oligoneuria rhenana. By Dr. L. IMHOFF.

Every year, usually in August, many thousands of an Ephemera make their appearance for several days together in this town (Basle). During a considerable series of years they appeared at the end of this month; in the year 1834 they were observed at its commencement; in 1851 they delayed their appearance until early in September. They are produced in the Rhine. A few hours before sunset, but not earlier, a few of these insects may be seen fluttering along