

Further, as regards the occurrence of leucotic fishes, Brandt, in the memoir above cited, describes a sterlet (*Acipenser ruthenus*), one foot in length, which was kept in the basin of the fountain of the Winter Garden at St. Petersburg, and had been brought there from Nischnij-Novgorod. With the exception of an inner silvery border, the iris was destitute of black pigment, so that the eye in front appeared for the most part veined with red, in consequence of the vessels shining through. With the exception of the very light pale grey fins, the ground-colour of the fish was pale brownish orange, with a flesh-coloured tinge on the sides and belly, while the somewhat darker dorsal surface had a yellow tinge.

Siebold (*l. c.* p. 18) mentions a loach (*Cobitis barbatula*) of a pale reddish colour and with a red pupil, which he found in the fish-market at Munich; and in the same place he cites Baldner, who describes a white burbot (*Lota vulgaris*) and a pale loach (*Cobitis barbatula*). These are the few examples of leucæthiopism that are known to me.

Consequently the occurrence of an albino eel (such as that above mentioned), as well as such an abundant appearance of yellow eels with black spots, have been previously unknown.—*Archiv für Naturgeschichte*, Jahrg. 47 (1881), p. 136.

*On the Origin of the Central Nervous System of the Annelida.*  
By Prof. KLEINENBERG.

The author gives a summary of the results obtained by him in studying the development of the Polychæta, upon which he proposes hereafter to publish a more extended memoir with figures. At present he confines himself to making known the development of a single species, the larva of *Lopadorhynchus*, until its transformation into the perfect animal.

The most interesting point in the present communication is the discovery of the circular nerve of the vibratile organ of the larva, and the investigation of the development of the central nervous system of the perfect animal. The author has found that during the transformation of the larva into the perfect animal the circular nerve disappears completely, together with the vibratile organ; and the rudiments of the typical central organs are not derived from the transformation of the circular nerve, but originate from other parts of the ectoderm. Consequently the nervous system of an Annelid is not homologous with that of its larva. Kleinenberg thinks that the larvæ of the Annelida possess only the central anterior nervous system of the Cœlenterata, but that the perfect animals have central organs proper to them; so that "the organ of the inferior type originates and functions in the larva, but is eliminated and replaced by new formations in the adult animal."—*Atti della R. Accad. dei Lincei, Transunti*, vol. vi. p. 15, 1881.