August 10, 1841.

William Yarrell, Esq., Vice-President, in the Chair.

A letter from the Earl of Derby was read. This letter is dated August 7, 1841, and announces the arrival of a pair of the African Musk Deer (*Moschus aquaticus*, Ogilby); one of them (a female) is alive, and in good health, in his Lordship's menagerie. Having two skeletons of this animal, his Lordship has directed one of them to be forwarded as a present to the Society.

A letter from Dr. Cox, dated Naples, March 28, 1841, was read; it refers to some engravings of a deformed fœtus which this gentleman had sent for exhibition at one of the Society's scientific meetings.

A letter from the Society's corresponding member Dr. Poey was read. In this letter, which is dated Havannah, June 26, 1841, Dr. Poey informs the Society that he has forwarded for the Menagerie a living Raccoon, and he moreover makes some observations upon its habits.

A letter from Edward Blyth, Esq., was next read. This letter is addressed to the Curator, and is written by Mr. Blyth on his passage to India; the writer relates some facts respecting various Mammals which have been communicated to him by his fellow-travellers. Lieut. Beagin, upon being shown some drawings of species of Gibbons, at once, in a figure of the *Hylobates leucogenys*, Ogilby, recognised an animal which he had met with, and examined, in the Malabar jungles. "Lieut. Beagin," observes Mr. Blyth, "has frequently seen this species in the Malabar ghauts, generally in groups of eight or ten, among which were brown individuals." "They appear to be unknown on the Coromandel side, but extend eastward to the Neilgherries; inhabiting upland jungles, chiefly at about 2000 feet above the sea-level."

"The same gentleman is well acquainted with the *Semnopithecus Johnii*, which I observe is incidentally noticed in Harkness's work on the Aborigines of the Neilgherry hills, p. 61. This species is common enough in the depths of the forest, but never approaches the houses like the *Entellus*."

Mr. Blyth is also informed by Lieut. Beagin of the existence of a true Ibex, upon the Neilgherries, with long and knotty horns, curved backwards, and having a considerable beard, in which characters it differs from the Himalayan Ibex. "It keeps to the loftiest and most inaccessible crags, like the other Ibices. He has seen it repeatedly, in troops of a dozen or more individuals, and often endeavoured to obtain a specimen, but without success."

"The *Kemas hyllocrias*, Ogilby, or 'Jungle Sheep,' (identified from one of my drawings,) is very generally, it appears, found in the hilly jungles of Peninsular India, keeping to the thick cover, and always met with solitarily, or in pairs. It is a very timid and shy

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animal, and when frightened utters a bleat like that of the domestic Sheep. Both sexes possess horns, those of the female being smaller ; and indeed this sex is rudely figured in one of General Hardwicke's drawings in the British Museum, as the 'Warry-a-too' of the Chagatagon Hills ; besides which, this is probably the species indicated as the wild Sheep of Tenasserim of Capt. Low."

"I shall now call your attention to some animals of North Africa, very good descriptions of many of which, obligingly furnished to me by Mr. Crowther (of the Queen's 63rd regiment), I have easily recognised as referring to known species ; but there are several which are certainly new to naturalists, and among them two very fine Bovine animals, which the Society would do well to write about to their correspondents in that quarter. As Mr. Crowther described to me the Bubalis and the White Oryx, which are often designated 'wild cattle,' it must not be supposed that those animals are alluded to, as indeed is clear enough from the somewhat elaborate descriptions, and from the roughly-drawn sketches of both animals, *from memory*, which I enclose to assist those descriptions. These sketches will, at any rate, give some idea of the sort of animal, and go far to prove their distinctness from any which we are acquainted with.

"The 'Sherif al Wady' (or *River-chief*) stands six feet and upwards at its elevated withers. General form Bisontine ; the carcass somewhat narrow, with flakes or rolls of fat on the sides of the neck ; the limbs fine-boned and rather long, being terminated by comparatively small neat hoofs ; the succentorial rather long ; tail short, with its tuft of frizzled hair not reaching to the houghs. Head, it would seem, much like that of ordinary cattle, with small pointed ears, generally borne pendent, and naked of hair internally and towards the tip, which are delicate pinkish flesh-colour ; eyes small and dark ; the horns thick, cylindrical, smooth till towards their base, where they are a little rugose, and directed almost vertically upwards from the sides of the forehead ; their colour dark, and length about a foot and a half. The character of the coat approaches that of Highland cattle in Britain, but is smoother toward the under parts, with curly hair on the forehead ; some pendent hair (as shown in the drawing) from the site of the dew-lap (which latter is wanting), of the dark colour of the body, and a long but scanty white tuft hanging from the prepuce, as in Fallow Deer. General colour blackish brown, with a white belly ; the centre of the hump pale ash-colour, or even whitish, with radiating black hair surrounding this, four or five inches long. The cow is smaller and of a redder colour. The individual described was brought with two others, another male and a female, from the central region of Mount Atlas, and was presented by the Emperor of Morocco, in the year 1834, to the late Sir Peter Schousboe, who gave it to Mr. Crowther, in whose possession it lived for four months at Tangiers, when it was shot. It became tolerably tame, and its voice was a booming low, though, when irritated, it would roar in a different tone. The flesh proved to be rather coarse-grained, but that stripped from the sides of the dorsal apophyses, or hump, was excellent, and had the flavour of tongue. The skin was attempted to be preserved, but was destroyed

by the rats. It was considered to be rather a rare animal. Should the above indications of it be confirmed, as I have no doubt they will, I propose that the species be denominated *Bos Atlantinus*. It is not improbably the *Empolunga* of Purchas.

"The other wild Bovine species is much commoner, and has also much of the Bison in its general contour. Size that of Devon cattle, and colour red, with a flowing blackish nuchal mane; (hence this animal is probably the *Wadan* of Capt. Lyön, if not also the *Pacasse*, *Empacasse*, or *Pegasus* of different authors). Its horns are very long and spreading in both sexes, but more so in the female, wherein they are also more slender; they are cylindrical, a little rugose towards the base, and directed out and up; head not much unlike that of common cattle, with no curly hair on the forehead; the ears of moderate size, and broad; and tail, with its tuft, reaching below the hock; the hoofs are very black, and the secondary, or succentorial, short. There is little difference between the male and female in general aspect, but the calf is born of a whitish colour. The voice of this species much resembles that of common cattle, but is considerably more powerful. Its beef is excellent. They are occasionally seen solitarily, but more commonly in large herds, sometimes consisting of several hundreds; at the rutting season in particular, which is about July, they are very fierce, and apt to attack without provocation; they feed in the night, and by day pass much of their time standing knee and belly deep in water, like our tame cattle in summer; their coat has a wavy surface. This species is found about Rabat, and near Salee, on the Barbary coast. I have heard before of such an animal, and it appears to be tolerably common.

"Upon questioning Mr. Crowther respecting the Bear of Mount Atlas, which has been suspected to be the *Syriacus*, he knew it well, and it proves to be a very different animal. An adult female was inferior in size to the American Black Bear, but more robustly formed, the face much shorter and broader, though the muzzle was pointed, and both its toes and claws were remarkably short (for a Bear), the latter being also particularly stout. Hair black, or rather of a brownish black, and shaggy, about four or five inches long; but, on the under parts, of an orange rufous colour: the muzzle black. This individual was killed at the foot of the Tetuan mountains, about twenty-five miles from that of the Atlas. It is considered a rare species in that part, and feeds on roots, acorns, and fruits. Does not climb with facility; and is stated to be very different-looking from any other Bear. The skin, like that of the 'Sherif al Wady,' was attempted to be preserved, but unfortunately met with the same fate."

Dr. Lhotsky then read his paper "On Animal Tuition and Animal Hygiene."

In the first part of this paper the author makes some observations on the food of animals, and especially with reference to the quality and quantity given to animals in menageries. He next proceeds with remarks upon their abode, dens, cages, &c., the importance of cleanliness, and upon their tuition.