bracula are generally aborted on alternate rows; but in such cases the external cells are protected by the development of the denticles into conspicuous spines.

The variety of *Electra* usually described and figured consists simply of the disposition of the cells over the cylindrical branches of some sea-weed, and not, as has been stated by one author, "around an ideal centre."

According to Lamouroux, the polypidom in a living state is of "a red-violet colour; but when exposed to air and light, it becomes an earthy white." The polypes are probably the same as in *Membranipora*.

Electra appears to be widely distributed; for it is said to be common in the European Seas, and I believe Prof. Busk has received it from the Cape of Good Hope.

5. On the Reproduction of Nemertes Borlassii. By William Beattie, Honorary Secretary of the Montrose Natural History Society. (In a Note to Dr. Gray, V.P.Z.S.)

"On the last week in February, Commander Lysaght, of the Coast Guard, brought me from one of the fishermen on the coast a very long specimen of *Lineus longissimus* (*Nemertes Borlassii*); after keeping the animal alive four days, it produced a young one 18 inches long and about $\frac{2}{3}$rds of a line or $\frac{1}{18}$th of an inch in diameter, of a cream-colour. Both lived for nearly a week; but in consequence of my illness the water was not changed, and the little creature died and was considerably decomposed before I knew. I have the remains in spirits. At first we fancied it must be an intestinal worm; but its habits were the same as the supposed parent."

Dr. Baird has examined the specimen produced by the *Nemertes*. It is not in a good state; but he is satisfied that it is not an *Ascaris* or *Filaria*, and thinks it very probably the true young of the *Nemertes*.

6. On the Families of Aspergillidæ, Gastrochænidæ, and Humphreyiadæ. By Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P.Z.S., Pres. Ent. Soc., etc.

In the 'Synopsis of the British Museum' I referred *Aspergillum*, *Clavagella* and *Gastrochæna* to the same family, under the name of *Gastrochænidæ*. A further study of the œconomy of the animal and the development of the shells have induced me to divide them into two families, and to add to them a third, founded on a recently discovered Mollusca brought by Mr. Strange from Australia, which differs from the other two in habits and œconomy.