

as in many other genera, but is soft and spongy in its general character, and more like the iris in mammalia than in birds.

As it is desirable to limit myself to those particular structures which are concerned in the accommodation of the eye for distance, deferring for the present certain general conclusions which fresh observations are required to confirm, I shall leave to the consideration of the naturalist the subjoined facts arranged in a tabulated form, and which appear to me to be applicable to the explanation of the habits of the birds by anatomical peculiarities.

	Cornea.	Sclerotic.	Lens.	Ciliary Muscle.	Elastic ligament.	
					Posterior.	Anterior.
<i>Rhea americana</i>	vertical $\frac{3}{8}$ in. lateral $\frac{3}{8}$	vertical $1\frac{1}{2}$ in. lateral $1\frac{1}{2}$ ant.-post. $1\frac{1}{2}$	lateral $\frac{1}{8}$ in. ant.-post. $\frac{1}{2}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$ fibres long.	in. $\frac{1}{8}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$
<i>Phœnicopterus antiquorum</i>	vertical $\frac{1}{2}$ lateral $\frac{1}{4}$ more.	lateral $\frac{1}{2}$ ant.-post. $\frac{1}{2}$	lateral $\frac{3}{8}$ ant.-post. $\frac{3}{8}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$ gradually diminishing.	in. $\frac{1}{8}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$
<i>Aptenodytes Humboldtii</i>	$\frac{1}{2}$ lateral $\frac{1}{2}$ ant.-post. $\frac{1}{2}$	lateral $\frac{1}{2}$ ant.-post. $\frac{1}{2}$	lateral $\frac{3}{8}$ ant.-post. $\frac{3}{8}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$ gradually diminishing.	in. $\frac{1}{8}$	in. $\frac{1}{8}$

MISCELLANEOUS.

On the name Tethya and its Varieties of Spelling.

By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

LAMARCK established the genus *Tethya* in the first volume of the 'Annales du Muséum' and in the 'Hist. Nat. des Anim. sans Vert.' ii. p. 384 (1816). As usual in the latter work he uses the French generic name *Téthie* and prints it in capitals, and the Latin generic name *Tethia* in common Roman characters: but the *i* is evidently an oversight or misprint; for to each of the six species he gives the name of *Tethya*, and it is so in the second edition. This name so written has been almost universally followed.

Dr. Johnston, in his 'British Sponges,' p. 81, writes it "*Tethea*, Lamarck," but quotes *Tethia* or *Tethya*, Lam., les *Thethyes*, Cuv., and *Tethium*, Blainv., and observes it is not the "*Tethea* of Pliny," and that Bohadsch has given the name of *Tethyum* to the *Tethis* of Linnæus.

Dr. Bowerbank, in his 'British Sponges' (i. p. 181 and ii. p. 6), adopts Dr. Johnston's name of *Tethea*, but quotes it as Lamarck's, probably from Johnston. In the next page he quotes Milne-Edwards's edition

of Lamarck, and gives *Téthie* as the French and *Tethea* erroneously as the Latin name, and quotes *Tethea lyncurium* and *T. cranium* as types, names not found in Lamarck.

Note on the Systematic Name of the Walrus. By Dr. W. PETERS.

Although Steenstrup and Sundevall, nearly thirteen years ago, showed that Linné, in the first edition of his 'Systema Naturæ' (1735), applied the generic name *Odobænus* to the walrus, and that at the same time the name *Trichechus* had been given by Artedi and Linné alike to the manatee, which they then considered to belong to the class of fishes, it seems that these facts have not been so much appreciated as they ought to be. Linné continued to apply the name *Trichechus* exclusively to the "hairy" fish, which he afterwards united with *Elephas*, *Bradypus*, *Myrmecophaga*, and *Manis* in his order Bruta. This may be seen even as late as the tenth edition of the 'Systema Naturæ' (1758), wherein the walrus figures at the same time as *Phoca rosamarus* amongst the Feræ. Only in the twelfth edition of his 'Systema Naturæ' (1766), p. 49, Linné added the walrus, as a second species, to the manatee in Artedi's genus *Trichechus*, upon the presumption that it had "dentes primores nullos utrinque."

It seems therefore quite clear that it is wrong to apply the generic name *Trichechus* (belonging to the manatee) to the walrus.

We have another, quite analogous case in zoology of the misapplication of a generic name, namely that of *Ursus labiatus*, which, in consequence of losing its front teeth easily, was transferred from the Feræ to the Bruta or Edentata, and stands as *Bradypus ursinus* in the systematic arrangements of Pennant and Shaw. But no one, I think, would contend that we ought to apply the name *Bradypus*, previously used for the Sloths, to the *Ursus labiatus*.

The Clustered Sea-Polype (*Umbellula grœnlandica*). By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

Two specimens of this very rare and extraordinarily large Radiate animal from Greenland were obtained during the Swedish expedition of the frigate 'Eugenia' to the Northern Ocean. Only two specimens had previously been seen, which were obtained by Captain Adrians on the coast of Greenland, and described by M. Christlob Mylius in 1754, and by Ellis in Phil. Trans. vol. xlviii. p. 305. These specimens are believed to be no longer in existence; so that the rediscovery of this animal is most important, and we await the description of it in the zoology of the voyage with impatience. (See Gray, Ann. & Mag. Nat. Hist. 1860, v. p. 25, and Cat. Sea-Pens in Brit. Mus. p. 39.)

Ziphius Sowerbiensis.

Mr. William Andrews informs me that they have received a fine perfect skeleton of this rare whale at the Dublin Museum. This is the third specimen taken on the west coast of Ireland in the last few years; they were all males and have two large well-developed teeth like the specimen figured by Sowerby.—Dr. J. E. GRAY.