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### British killer or Orca

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whilst indicating the efferent apertures, no one appears to have thought of seeking the orifices of entrance, which, however, could not occur, as usual in the other sponges, upon the general external surface, as this, being immediately applied against the walls of the cavities which the *Cliona* inhabits, is not in contact with the ambient fluid. If this exceptional arrangement of the pores exists likewise, as is probable, in the allied species, we may find in it an anatomical character for this genus, which has hitherto been founded exclusively upon the biological fact of its boring-faculty.—*Comptes Rendus*, January 3, 1870, tome lxx. pp. 41-43.

*British Killer or Orca.* By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

The examination of the skulls in the British Museum shows that two species of *Orca* or Killer inhabit the English coast.

1. The smaller has a broad beak, of nearly equal width for the greater part of its length. This is the skull figured by Cuvier in his work on fossil bones; and his figure has been copied by many authors. I propose to call this species *Orca latirostris*.

2. Judging from the size of the skull and the length of the skeleton in the British Museum, the other species must be considerably larger. The beak of the skull is elongated, and tapers nearly from the orbit to the front end, which is narrow and acute. I have distinguished this species as *Orca stenorhynchus*.

*On the Antiquity of the Ass and Horse as Domestic Animals in Egypt.* By M. F. LENORMANT.

The author remarks upon a statement of Professor Owen's, that neither the horse nor the ass was known in ancient Egypt—that is to say, up to the sixth dynasty, about 4000 years B.C. He says that the horse undoubtedly does not appear upon any monument of the ancient empire, or of the middle empire, including the twelfth and thirteenth dynasties. But when the monuments recommence under the eighteenth dynasty, about 1800 years B.C., the horse appears as an animal of habitual use in Egypt.

The ass, on the other hand, appears upon the oldest Egyptian monuments. It is frequent in the tombs of the ancient empire at Gizeh, Sakkarah, and Abousir. As early as the fourth dynasty, asses were as numerous in Egypt as they are at present: the tomb of Schafra-Ankh at Gizeh represents its occupant as the possessor of 760 asses; and those of other tombs boast of being the owners of thousands of asses.

The author remarks further that, considering the intimate relations existing between Egypt, Arabia Petrea, and Southern Palestine during the ancient empire, we may infer the absence of the horse in the latter countries at this period; and in support of this view he cites a painting from the tomb of Noumhotep at Beni-Hassan-el-Kadim, and also the evidence to be derived from the Book of Genesis, in which the horse is first mentioned in connexion