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## On the Irritability of the leaves of *Drosera rotundifolia*

Dr. Milde

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July 23.—Many of the species *Natica Montaguvi*.

obtained the first day, together *Mangelia teres*.

with *Lima subauriculata*. — *purpurea*.

*Chiton laevis*.

*Bulla Cranchii*; very fine.

All the above shells were procured alive, except those specified as otherwise, and some of them are new to that locality.

I remain, yours most truly obliged,

W. W. WALPOLE.

*On the Irritability of the Leaves of Drosera rotundifolia.*

By Dr. MILDE.

Towards the end of June I placed on the middle of a strongly vegetating leaf of a plant of *Drosera rotundifolia* which I had had for a short time in a cup of moss in my room, four small flies of about the size of a pin's head. The insects remained nearly motionless upon it, and their efforts to escape from the sticky matter were ineffectual. After about five minutes I again looked at the leaf, when to my astonishment I saw that the glandular hairs of the anterior margin of the leaf, which had been previously extended horizontally, had turned back towards the surface of the leaf and partially covered the flies. I had no time until the following day to observe the leaf again carefully, when I found that the anterior margin and the sides of the leaf had turned over towards its middle and thus completely enveloped the flies. It was only after the lapse of five days that the margins of the leaf and hairs had returned to their places, so as to leave the dead flies lying free on the surface.—*Bot. Zeitung*, x. 540.

EMBRYOGENY OF ORCHIS, GESNERIA, AND OTHER PHANEROGAMIA.

Dr. Cobbold laid before the Edinburgh Physiological Society a brief account of some investigations into the embryogeny of *Orchis*, *Gesneria*, and other Phanerogamia. These observations, together with a preliminary account of the labours and opinions of Schleiden, Amici, Brown, Geraud, Griffith, Hofmeister, Meyen, Mirbel, Mohl, Dickie, and about forty others, formed the subject of an essay, written in the summer of 1849. Dr. Sanderson, who at the same time investigated this subject, has since published in the 'Annals of Natural History,' an admirable memoir on the embryogeny of *Hippuris vulgaris*, the facts there recorded being strikingly confirmed by what the author of this paper observed as occurring in the above genera. From a review of the whole matter, the following conclusions are to be drawn:—

1st. That, prior to impregnation, the ovule always contains an embryo-sac.

2nd. That the embryo-sac is commonly formed at the apex of the nucleus.

3rd. That in the interior of the embryo-sac there exists a fluid, more or less granular.

4th. That the sac frequently protrudes beyond the exostome (ovule tube,—Griffith).

5th. That in the interior of the sac, prior to impregnation, one or more cytoblasts, or embryonic vesicles, are formed.