

# The Conchologists' Exchange.

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*A Publication Designed for Conchologists and  
Scientists generally.*

ISSUED MONTHLY

BY

WM. D. AVERELL,

EDITOR AND PUBLISHER.

Correspondence upon Conchology, as well as reliable items of interest concerning the Mollusca, their habits, localities, etc., kindly solicited from all.

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SUBSCRIPTIONS TO VOLUME II, BEGINNING WITH JULY NEXT, ARE NOW DUE.

WITH this number we finish the first year of our journalistic existence. One year ago we spent a much-needed vacation in doing little else but thinking about the needs of American conchologists. The outcome of that thought was a postal card which we rather timorously styled "Volume I,

Number I," and announced that it was the first number of "The Conchologists' Exchange." Since that time, with the aid of our friends (and we trust every subscriber is a friend), our paper has increased in size and, if we are to believe the many testimonials we have received, in usefulness as well.

"THE CONCHOLOGISTS' EXCHANGE," in its present form involves a greater outlay for printing than formerly, as you can readily see. That being the case, we feel called upon to ask a slightly increased subscription price for Volume II, and to show you that we are liberally inclined, we promise to give in each number, information to the value of a year's subscription and also beg leave to announce that, beginning with the July number, we propose to throw open the "Exchange Column," to the free use of all subscribers. Now, as we have declared our intentions, we must ask you to send us fifty (50) cents as the subscription price of Volume II. We trust you will all respond to this very reasonable increase in price and that the dividend declared will meet with no fault-finding among the stock-holders.

A FITTING companion to the very able articles by Mr. C. F. Ancey, Mr. Wm. A. Marsh, and Dr. A. Sterki, has been found in the "Shell-bearing Mollusca of Rhode Island," by Mr. Horace F. Carpenter, whose reputation for accuracy in describing the Mollusca, is so well-known. This article is a continuation of the articles on the same subject, published in "Random Notes on Natural History," the discontinuation of which, in December last, we noted in a former issue. We can furnish our readers with the back volumes of "Random Notes," containing the former numbers of Mr. Carpenter's interesting history of Rhode Island shells, with the exception of Nos. 1 and 2, which, however, were only general in their treatment of the subject. Please see advertisement.

BRIEF NOTES ON THE LAND AND  
FRESH-WATER SHELLS OF  
MERCER CO., ILL.

BY WILLIAM A. MARSH.

(Continued.)

34.—*Unio rubiginosus*, Lea.

A very variable species which inhabits Pope and Edwards Creeks. I have never found it in the river. It varies much in outline. Sexual differences are quite marked; the females being more inflated and slightly emarginate. It has a dark brown or rubiginose epidermis sometimes of a greenish or yellow tinge, velvety in texture, and usually has a white nacre, often shining and iridescent. Some have a very pale rose-colored nacre, while others are of a light salmon color. This abundant and widely distributed species often bears strong resemblance to a number of both northern and southern described forms. It is often found associated with both *coccineus* and *trigonus* and is then difficult to separate from them unless the collector familiarizes himself with the specific differences of the three forms. It differs from *trigonus* in being more depressed, more elongated, more rounded over the umbones, in having lighter cardinal and lateral teeth and very much less prominent growth lines. Its beaks are less ponderous and the undulations also quite different. It differs here from *coccineus* in having a darker and rougher epidermis, in the undulations of its beaks, in its teeth, and general outline and color of its nacre. In our creeks it is an active species and is found in all kinds of situations; on the sandy bars, in the gravel, under the projecting edges of large rocks, in water very highly impregnated with iron ore, in the mud, and even under logs submerged in the water.

35.—*Unio solidus*, Lea.

An inhabitant of the deep water of the Mississippi River. This is a rare shell and I

consider it extraordinary good luck to find three or four specimens in a season. As its name implies it is a thick, solid shell, epidermis dark reddish brown, growth lines smooth, beaks smooth and massive and slightly incurved, rays dark green or dark brown. It is a very distinct species, yet, judging from the many names I have received it under from collectors, it is not well understood. Of our local species, it most resembles *trigonus*. The *Unio plenus* and the *catillus*, of Conrad, are often mistaken for this shell, but its green or brown rays, rounded umbones and massive beaks will, however, always distinguish it from those forms. The color of the interior varies from white and light rose to a beautiful pink and even salmon color.

36.—*Unio spatulatus*, Lea.

This species is found only in Pope and Edwards Creeks and never in the river. It was once very abundant here but, owing to the constant ravages of hogs, coons and muskrats, it is now nearly extinct. It is a fine shell, covered with dark-green rays, slightly undulate, and in this character it much resembles *ligamentinus* with which it groups. Its cardinal teeth are small, and when found in iron ore water they are always stained with that substance. The animal seems to prefer gravelly situations, and very frequently buries itself so deeply in sand or gravel that it is difficult to find.

37.—*Unio subovatus*, Lea.

This species is found very sparingly in Pope and Edwards Creeks. It is the male of *Unio occidens*, Lea, and in many respects is strikingly similar to *ventricosus*, Barnes. It often attains an immense size and is provided with very large beaks and teeth. Its surface ornamentation is extremely variable, for while some specimens are provided with beautiful green rays, varying greatly in width, others are found with a few dull rays over the anterior portion of the shell, while others still are entirely devoid of rays.

38.—*Unio securis*, Lea.

Found rarely in the Mississippi River and in Swan Lake on the Bog Island, and always in deep water. A smooth, triangular shell, very solid, and usually very beautiful. Epidermis smooth, varying from yellow to green and brown color. The rays are remarkably variable, some being straight, others zigzag with blackish or brown dots in all imaginary shapes. Its beaks are very much compressed and very flat over the summit, while its umbones are very angular. The nacre is usually white, shining and iridescent, but I have found specimens having pink and salmon-colored nacles. Sexual differences are very apparent; the female being very much inflated and truncated. The species is slow in its movements and moves about but little. *Securis* is so distinct that when once known it need not be confounded with any other.

39.—*Unio Schoolcraftii*, Lea.

This species is found only in Edwards Creek and is now rare. It is a pustulose species and in some respects resembles *U. pustulosus*, but the careful observer will notice differences in outline, as it is quadrate, while *pustulosus* is subrotund and, again, it is always much less inflated. It has the same greenish tint over the beaks and umbones, but it is spread on, so to speak, in a different manner. When young, *Schoolcraftii* has but few pustules, but as it increases in age (usually), is found almost completely covered with them. The epidermis is very dark brown in adult specimens. The teeth and cicatrices are quite different from *pustulosus*. The nacre is white and shining, always much thicker before than behind in all except the very aged specimens, in which the nacre is of a rusty iron ore color. It is a very active species and may be found in all situations; in the iron ore beds, in the gravel, in the mud and in both deep and shallow water. Often, owing to its activity, it gets left upon dry land, as it will venture along the margin of the stream where the water is not deep enough to cover its shell, and, by a sudden fall of the water it is left upon the dry

sand. At a place of this kind, below Fender's Crist Mill when the waters are shut off every Saturday evening, the collector may find numbers of this species, together with *parvus* and *rubiginosus* which have been suddenly left in the sand by the receding waters.

To be continued.

DESCRIPTION OF NEW GENERA  
OR SUBGENERA OF  
HELICIDÆ.

BY C. F. ANCEY.

(Continued.)

XVIII. *Coxia*, Ancey. "Testa valde deplanata, latissime umbilicata, tenuis, subcornea, supra minus micans, infra nitidior. Spira plana, apice prominulo, arctispirata, anfractibus numerosis, ultimo supra acute angulato, infra convexo. Apertura parva, sinuata, ad carinam angulata. Peristoma obtusatum, vix inferne expansiusculum."

Type: *Helix Macgregori*, Cox.

Geog. distribution: New Ireland.

This group differs from *Systrophia* and from *Ophiogyr*a in being carinated above the periphery and in having the apex elevated above the level of the following whorls. The distribution is not the same.

XIX. *Lejeania*, Ancey. "Testa forma Xerophilis quibusdam sen Fructicolis vicina, tenuis, anfractibus sat celeriter crescentibus, convexo depressa, spira convexa, subobtectis et mediocriter umbilicata, cornea fasciis opace albis zonata vel alba opaca cum zonis angustis nigris. Apertura obliqua; peristoma tenuis, simplex acutum, rectum, ad umbilicum expansum."

Types: *Helix Darnaudi*, Pfeiffer; *H. Isseliana*, Morelet; *H. Jickeliana*, Nevill, etc.

Geog. distribution: Mountains of Abyssinia; Sennaar.

XX. *Pseudiberus*, Ancey. "Testa solida, "opaca, non nitens, costulata vel striata. Spira "plus minusve elevata, obtusa; anfractus "parum convexi, interdum carinati, sutura "lineari, modice crescentes; ultimus carinatus. "Apertura obliqua angulata. Peristoma album "reflexum, incrassatum. Habitu et textura "testæ Iberos (Europæ incolas) valde com- "memorans: Umbilicus apertus."

Types: *Helix tectum-sinense*, Mart.; *H. Zenonis*, Gredler; *H. plectotropis*, Mart., and *Matzianensis*, Nevill.

Geog. distribution: China (in Northern provinces); Central Asia (Eastern Turkestan, Sogoria, Mounts Tian-schan).

Allied to *Plectotropis*; more coarsely sculptured, shell heavier, peristome thicker and whitish; the texture of the shell is quite different and the general appearance is much like that of *Helix scabriuscula*.

### XXI. *Helminthoglypta*, Ancey.

I venture to suggest the above name for the well-known Californian species of *Helices* such as *arrosa*, Gould; *ramentosa*, Gould; *exarata*, Pfeiffer; *tudiculata*, Binney, and others, as Dr. Jousseauve has proved they are distinct from the European type of *Arionta* (*Helix arborum*), by many features of the soft parts. He has studied *Helix tudiculata*, so that this species must be regarded as the type of the group. It bears the same relation to *Aglaja* and *Lysine*, as in Europe *Arionta* to *Campylæa*, and I am convinced the two series are parallel in both countries. *Micrarionta*, Ancey, a group including only three Californian species, viz: *H. Gabbi*; *H. facta*, and *H. ruficincta*, Newcomb, is very near *Helminthoglypta*, and connects it with *Aglaja*.

*To be continued.*

## THE SHELL-BEARING MOLLUSCA OF RHODE ISLAND.

BY HORACE F. CARPENTER.

(NOTE. This article is a continuation of the same subject as formerly published in "Random Notes on Natural History."—EDITOR.)

### Chapter XXXVI.

#### 132. *Planorbis* (*Menetus*) *exacutus*, Say.

Synonyms: *Planorbis*, lens, Lea; *Planorbis Brongniartiana*, Lea; *Planorbis lenticularis*, Lea; *Planorbis Buchanensis*, Lea; *Planorbis hyalina*, Lea.

This very peculiar shell was discovered in Lake Champlain by Mr. Augustus Jessup. Only two specimens were found and these were deposited in the cabinet of the Academy of Natural Sciences, at Philadelphia. Mr. Say described them in 1821, in the "Journal of the Academy," Vol. II, No. 165, under the name of *Planorbis exacutus*. This term is not a Latin word, nor has it a Latin termination and it may be presumed that in printing the description, an "o" was substituted in mistake, for a "t." If so, by correcting this error, we have a legitimate specific name, and one very expressive of the form of the shell. The subgeneric name, *Menetus*, includes those species whose shells are depressed; whorls rapidly increasing; the periphery angulated, and the aperture very oblique. It was used by A. and H. Adams, in 1885, for two species of *Planorbis* inhabiting the United States, *planorbis opercularis*, Gould, and *exacutus*, Say.

The shell is of a light horn color, those from some localities almost white, with four whorls, flattened so that each whorl is twice as wide as deep; the upper and lower surfaces are both convex and meet at the periphery in an acute lateral edge; the superior termination of the lip exactly coincides with the sharp edge of the body whorl; the aperture, looked

at transversely, appears almost triangular; lip simple and sharp; umbilicus broad, showing all the volutions to the apex. Diameter, one-quarter of an inch.

It is found in brooks, ditches and stagnant ponds, adhering to sticks and leaves. It is quoted from New England to Kansas, and southward to Washington, D. C. The only locality where I have found it is in a small pool near Hammond's Pond, Pawtucket. Mr. E. H. Jenks has found several specimens in Valley Falls Pond.

### 133. *Planorbis (Gyraulus) deflectus*, Say.

Synonyms: *Planorbis virens*, Adams; *Planorbis obliquus*, DeKay; *Nautilina deflecta*, Chenu.

Shell dextral, depressed; whorls five, minutely and regularly wrinkled across; body-whorl somewhat carinated above; aperture suddenly deflected downwards; lip simple, commencing just below the carina and embracing but a small portion of the whorl; umbilicus broad, showing one-half of each whorl to the apex; upper surface of the shell convex; lower surface concave. Diameter, three-tenths of an inch.

The sub-genus, *Gyraulus* of Agassiz is represented in the United States by five species of which four inhabit Rhode Island. This section is characterized thus: "Shell discoidal; whorls few, rapidly enlarging; periphery sometimes carinated; last whorl sometimes deflected." *Planorbis deflectus* was first collected by Dr. Bigsby in the Northwest Territory, and described by Say in the second volume of "Long's Expedition to the source of St. Peter's River," page 261, 1824. The variety *virens* of Adams, now considered as a synonym of *deflectus* was first found by Mr. Shiverick at New Bedford, Mass., and described by Prof. C. B. Adams in Silliman's Journal vol. XXXIX, No. 274, 1840, as a distinct species. It resembles *deflectus* in all respects excepting that the lip is not so much deflected, in fact, no more so than in other species of this sub-genus.

*P. deflectus* is found in ponds and rivers, adhering to stones, Great Slave Lake to Washington and from New England to Nebraska. The typical *deflectus* is not common in Rhode Island, although we find a few in Valley Falls Pond. The variety *virens*, is quite abundant in this locality.

### 135. *Planorbis (Gyraulus) dilatatus*, Gould.

Shell small, of a yellowish green color; spire flat, composed of three whorls, separated by a well-defined suture; the outer whorl has a sharp margin on a level with the spire; below this margin the whorl rounds convexly so as to encircle a small, deep, abruptly-formed umbilicus; this whorl enlarges rapidly, forming a large, not very oblique aperture; lip expanded, trumpet shaped. Diameter of the shell, three-twentieths of an inch; thickness, one-twentieth of an inch.

A widely distributed shell but extremely local. It was first found on the Island of Nantucket, in damp moss by Mr. J. M. Earle of Worcester, Mass., afterwards in July, 1840, Mr. J. J. Whittemore found it in great numbers in a small pool in Hingham, Mass. Mr. Perkins has found it at New Haven, Conn. The only locality in Rhode Island so far as I know, is a little pond on the side of the Louisquissett Pike, about half way between Providence and Harris Lime Rock in Smithfield. It is only a shallow depression, nearly dry most of the year, and the shells were found in summer on stones and at first were mistaken for some species of land shell, but were identified as *Planorbis dilatatus* afterwards by my friend, Mr. John Ford, of Philadelphia. They were reddish in color and not greenish as above but the color of all our fluviatile shells depends on the locality and the nature of the water in which they live. Another species to be described hereafter, whose color is given by authorities as brownish horn or light chestnut, is fully as often found in our State as black as coal, while in some localities they are nearly white.

### 135. *Planorbis (Gyraulis) hirsutus*, Gould.

Synonyms: *Planorbis albus*, W. G. Binney, Haldeman, non Müller.

Shell light brown, concave on both sides, more so on the left, whorls *three*, rapidly increasing; aperture large, sub-oval, oblique; lip simple. Diameter one-quarter of an inch. The prominent characteristic which distinguishes this species from all others of the subgenus, is that expressed by its specific name, *hirsutus*. The entire surface of the shell is covered by a *dark* epidermis, bristling with rigid hairs which are arranged in close revolving lines. When the shell becomes bleached the hairs drop off and show plainly the revolving lines.

Mr. W. G. Binney has endeavored to show that our shell is identical with the *Planorbis albus*, Müller, of Europe, and in his description of American fresh-water shells in the "Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collection," No. 143, 1865, page 132, he has named it *Planorbis albus*, Müller. Notwithstanding Mr. Binney's great reputation as a Conchologist, and his valuable labors in this department, I cannot but think he is wrong in this instance. The two species, *hirsutus* and *albus* are as surely distinct as any two species of the same subgenus can be. The general form of the two is similar, but not more so than several other species. The color of the European species, *albus*, is, as its name signifies, white, or nearly so, and they have neither the rigid hairs, nor the revolving lines of our *hirsutus*. I have numerous specimens of both species, and my specimens of *albus* are not as smooth as *deflectus* or *parvus*. The number of whorls and the umbilicus are different, and the habits of the animal are unlike ours.

On referring to Reeve's "British Land and Fresh-water Mollusks," page 139, we find his description of *Planorbis albus*: "Shell rather depressed, thin, whitish, horny, covered with a scarcely perceptible hairy epidermis; lower, concavity, a broadly excavated umbilicus; whorls four to five. The animal feeds voraciously on species of *Potamogeton* and is found

on water plants in all parts of the British Isles."

*Planorbis hirsutus* was first discovered by Prof. C. B. Adams, in Mansfield, Mass., and described by Dr. A. A. Gould, in 1840, in "Silliman's Journal," Vol. XXXVIII, page 196, and in 1841, in "Gould's Invertebrata of Massachusetts," page 206. It has been found at Dorchester, Dedham and Cambridge, adhering to sticks and stones in stagnant water, and in Rhode Island at Valley Falls and in the Providence and Worcester Canal, on stones, but has never been found in America, so far as I can learn, upon a water plant.

*To be Continued.*

## Young Collectors' Corner.

### HOW TO COLLECT SMALL LAND SHELLS.

BY V. STERKI, M. D., NEW PHILADELPHIA, O.

Continued.

II.

### HOW TO TREAT THEM WHILE ON JOURNEYS.

Many American collectors recommend putting the smaller specimens in alcohol at once. This is very expedient but it does not prove quite satisfactory for several reasons. In many instances it is desirable to examine the living animal; its size, shape, color, and mode of locomotion. In the case of rare or new forms this is of great importance and would not be possible after immersion in alcohol, which has a tendency also to coagulate slime and so stiffen the odontophore (lingual membrane), as to render its examination difficult. By simply

drying the animal the odontophore may be more easily prepared and examined and the preparation will get cleaner. And last, but not least, the use of alcohol will result in the soft parts remaining in the aperture of the shell, and not only make it unsightly, but render the proper study of the specimens difficult or impossible. In the case of *Pupas* and *Vertigos*, this is very important, as the teeth and folds often reach deep in the mouth of the shell and should be seen plainly to be studied correctly. It may be prevented by keeping the shells living dry for a few days, so that the animals may lose a part of their moisture and retire deeper in the shell; then it is time to kill them, by dipping them in a strainer or piece of fine muslin in nearly boiling water for from 30 seconds to one minute. After this they should be dried well in a moderate heat to prevent decomposition of the soft parts, and the development of fungi. If the shells are collected at their homes it is best to place them, together with the moss and dead leaves, in a box. If this should be wooden, there will be air enough; if tin, the cover should be perforated with small holes, but they should not be kept too long in it. Shells also should never be kept in a stoppered vial before they are dry; use cotton instead of cork. The shells, as found, are often covered with slime and dirt, and it is necessary to clean them; but most of them are too small and too tender to do this by hand. A prominent collector has indicated a very expedient means: Some fine sand should be put in a small glass test tube with the shells, and after water is added, the tube should be gently shaken until the shells are clean. A box or bottle of washed sand should be always kept on hand and the portion used may be dried for future use. Cleaning in this way should be done while the animals are living; when thus treated the shells are less liable to get filled with sand. Sometimes it is advisable to soak them for a few hours in water in which a little soda has been dissolved.

After drying, the shells should be separated by species and put up in vials or tubes, not however without a label indicating the *place* where they were collected, and the name, if known. It should be constantly borne in

mind that the locality is of more importance than the name, as the latter can be obtained at any time, while the former is more easily forgotten and if lost cannot be supplied. If the vial is not full of shells, a piece of cotton wool should be added to prevent damage. Shells of quite different sizes should be packed separately, lest the smaller ones slip into the larger and in many instances be lost. If specimens are sent for examination or determination, all kinds of about the same size, from one locality may be put together. I like this mode best, as it at once gives an idea of the malacological character of a certain place.

A collector should try to have a good specimens as he can find, but if a number of good ones cannot be obtained, poor shells are of course, preferable to none. While it should be remembered that the modes of collecting described in these pages will in most instances yield a number of any species living in a certain locality, on the other hand, it is not the right thing to select only the largest and most beautiful specimens for the collection, as they would not give a true idea of a species or variety, and the average form should be well represented. It is also a good plan to add a few young specimens, in different stages of growth, as the smaller species not only form very interesting groups, but also present very beautiful forms that should be looked for earnestly. There is no doubt but that quite a number of new species and varieties of the *Pupa* and *Vertigo* group have yet to be found in America. I am making a special study of these and shall always be glad to receive minutiae for examination and, if desired, for determination, and shall, in describing new forms give full credit to any contributor.

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### STRIÆ.

Changes of P. O. addresses: M. A. Mitchell, from Waldo, Fla., to Jasper, Mo.; Rev. A. B. Kendig, from 35 Dale St., Boston, Mass., to 11 Hanson Place, Brooklyn, N. Y.; G. D. Harris, from Ithaca, N. Y., to Jamestown, N. Y.; Dr. S. Hart Wright, from Lake Helen, Fla., to Penn Yan, N. Y.

Reports of Natural History Society proceedings especially desired.

A. N. Prentis, Professor of Botany in Cornell University, has sailed for Europe, to carry on the advanced study of his specialty.

Corrections: In No. 11, page 67, right hand column, 15th line from bottom read *mass* for moss. Same number, under New Localities, the word States in report of *Carychium exiguum*, should be *State*.

The Humboldt Natural History and Archæological Society was organized and incorporated April 16th last, at Eureka, Cala., with the following board of directors and officers: T. B. Brown, President; T. F. Cornan, Secretary; Prof. E. H. Whipple, R. B. Powell, Robert Gunthur.—West American Scientist (May).

## A SUGGESTION TO OUR YOUNG FRIENDS.

BY ADAM LOOFBET.

Every student, especially the young beginner, should have an aquarium. This need not be an expensive affair. A large glass jar such as is used by confectioners is very well suited to this purpose. Any deep dish or wide-mouth bottle will answer, but glass is much preferable as it enables observations to be taken on all sides, as with many of our Mollusca, the foot is the most striking characteristic of the animal. To prepare your aquarium, cover the bottom about an inch deep with clean sand and gravel and fill with clear water. If for fresh-water specimens, get your supply from a brook or pond, as it contains minute particles upon which the animal feeds. Allow about fifteen shells of average size to each quart of water. Keep your aquarium in a shady place but not in a close room. It will probably not be necessary to change the water as any impurities will be devoured as rapidly as formed.

## PUBLICATIONS RECEIVED.

On Some Marine Invertebrata, dredged or otherwise collected by Dr. G. M. Dawson in 1885, on the coast of British Columbia; with a Supplementary List of a few Land and Fresh-water Shells, Fishes, Birds, etc., from the same region, by J. F. Whiteaves, F. G. S.—From the Transactions of the Royal Society of Canada, Vol. IV, Sec. 4, 1886."

This valuable contribution to Science by Prof. J. F. Whiteaves, who has worked so nobly in the British North American field, comes none too soon, and adds materially to our knowledge of the Natural History of British Columbia.

Annual Report of the Trustees and List of Members of The American Museum of Natural History, New York City, for the year 1886-7.

Received from A. Woodward, Librarian, to whom we are indebted for many valued favors.

We thankfully acknowledge the receipt of the following publications: The Canadian Entomologist, Port Hope, Canada.—The West American Scientist, San Diego, Cala.—The Microscopical Bulletin and Science News, Philadelphia.—The Open Court, Chicago, Ill.—Common Sense, Mexico, N. Y.—The Ex-changers' Monthly, Jersey City, N. J.—The Eclipse, Pittsburgh, Pa.—The Young Geologist, Oskaloosa, Ia.—The Blade, Mendota, Ill.—The Shelbyville Star, Shelbyville, Ill.—National Educator, Allentown, Pa.—The Enterprise, Towson, Md.

## TOO LATE FOR CLASSIFICATION.

OFFERED:—Fine specimens of *Helix Traski*, Newc. in exchange for any North American Helices not in my collection. G. W. MICHAEL, JR., Morro, S. L., Obispo, Co. Cala.

## NEW LOCALITIES.

Editor Conchologists' Exchange :

Sir: I wish to report *Zonites intertextus*, Binney, as being found sparingly in this (Hancock) County, and *Pleurocera neglectum*, Anthony, from the Tippecanoe River, Kosciusco County; both in Indiana. Both localities, I believe, to be new.

GEORGE W. PUTERBAUGH,  
March 26, 1887. Greenfield, Ind.

Editor Conchologists' Exchange :

Sir: A new locality for *Unio papyracea*. Gould, is Lake Ashby, Volusia Co., Florida. This paper-like shell is very rare, and only a few specimens were secured. The original station, I think, Mr. Gould does not give.

S. HART WRIGHT,  
June 7, 1887. Penn Yan, N. Y.

## NECROLOGY

Thomas Moore, English botanist, died January 1, 1887.

Dr. Martin Websky, German scientist, died Nov. 27, 1886, aged 62 years.

C. E. Broome, English mycologist, at Bath, England, November 15, 1886.

William Willoughby Cole, Earl of Enniskillen, noted for his splendid collection of fossil fishes, died Nov. 12, 1886.

June 4th in London, England, Henry Whitall, Professor of Astronomy at Belvidere Seminary, N. J., at the age of 75.

Rev. Roswell Dwight Hitchcock, D. D., L. L. D., President of the Union Theological Seminary, died June 16, 1887, of peritonitis, aged 70 years.

Rev. Mark Hopkins, D. D., L. L. D., Ex-President of Williams College, died suddenly at Williamstown, Mass., June 17, 1887. He was born at Stockbridge, Mass., February, 4, 1802.

## Current Comment.

### FROM OUR FRIENDS TESTIFYING TO THE VALUE OF "THE CONCHOLOGISTS' EXCHANGE."

"Cannot afford to miss a single number."

\* \* \* Now that your paper is assuming such proportions, not only in size but in the articles published, I cannot afford to miss a single number, nor a single item.  
John Walton, Rochester, N. Y.

"Much interested."

\* \* \* I do not wish to lose a copy, for I am much interested in the Paper.  
E. J. Smith,  
Natick, Mass.

"Solid and valuable."

\* \* \* Allow me to congratulate you on the present number of "The Conchologists' Exchange." It is a solid, valuable number.  
Chas. T. Simpson,  
May 4, 1887. Ogalalla, Neb.

"Very valuable."

I acknowledge receipt of Nos. 5 and 6 of a very valuable publication styled "The Conchologists' Exchange," the perusal of which has proved so interesting to me that I should like to possess all the numbers from the beginning, and to become a regular subscriber for the future.  
Henry Vendryes, Kingston, Jamaica.

"Worth the money."

Enclosed please find my subscription for "The Conchologists' Exchange." I think it worth the money.  
J. W. Velie, M. D.,  
Academy of Sciences, Chicago, Ill.

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H. A. Pilsbry,  
Sept. 23, 1886. Davenport Acad. of Sciences, Iowa.

[They have it.—Ed. May, 1887.]

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J. A. Singley, Giddings, Tex.

[The above are a few extracts from several score of similar letters, showing the esteem in which we are held. We wish to increase our subscription list very largely and would thank our subscribers to see that all their friends subscribe as well, and would again invite their attention to our premium list upon another page.—Ed.]

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## CORRESPONDENCE.

## Editor Conchologists' Exchange:

Sir: In Tryon's Manual, First Series, Vol. III, page 109, Mr. Tryon states that *Melongena fusiformis*, Blainv. is apparently very closely related to *Cuma Kiosquiformis*, Ducl., but that the operculum according to D'Orbigny is not purpuroid. He says that the resemblance conchologically is much nearer *Cuma* than either *Melongena* or *Siphonalia* and that he cannot help thinking that the great French naturalist was mistaken as to the operculum. I recently received three specimens of this shell from Panama, two of which contained the dried animal and the operculum in position. It is not purpuroid, but, like that of *Melongena coronis*, is solid and claw-like, with an apical nucleus, and might be mistaken for that of the above shell only that it is smaller and a little heavier. I think this will settle it, that *Melongena fusiformis* is a proper *Melongena*. In my specimens I can trace some of the characters of the genus, a somewhat pyriform body-whorl, tuberculate shoulder, and there are resemblances in the aperture.

CHAS. T. SIMPSON,  
Ogalalla, Neb.

May 4, 1887.

## Exchange Column.

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