P L SCLATER

We are greatly indebted to Dr. Grey for the pains which he has taken in getting together this series of African Tortoises, in which he informs me he has received great assistance from Mr. T. C. Scanlen, M.P. for Cradock, Cape Colony, South Africa. The two last-named species are new to the Society's collection.

In my report for January last year (see P. Z. S. 1871, p. 102) I called attention to the presence in the Society's collection of a New-Zealand Ground-Parrot (*Stringops habroptilus*), which had been deposited on the 24th of that month by Capt. R. Peck of the ship 'Mary Shepherd.' I have now the pleasure of announcing that the bird in question has been most liberally presented to us by Mr. D. L. Murdoch of Auckland, New Zealand. Of this (one of the most wonderful, perhaps, of all living birds) a specimen has been once before in the Society's Gardens (see P. Z. S. 1870, p. 798); but the present is the first that has actually belonged to us. The *Stringops* is most strictly nocturnal in its habits, and never emerges from the box in which it is kept, voluntarily, during daylight. Our specimen has no power of flight, but uses its wings to aid it in running. It is fed upon oats, apples, lettuce, carrots, and other vegetables, and appears to thrive well upon this diet.

The Secretary announced the addition to the Society's collection of a fine female specimen of the Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*, Cuv.) from Chittagong, which had been purchased of Mr. Wm. Jamrach on the 15th inst. for the sum of £1250.

The following papers were read:—

1. Notes on the Visceral Anatomy of the Hippopotamus. By John W. Clark, F.Z.S.

[Received February 20, 1872.]

The Hippopotamus (*Hippopotamus amphibius*) on whose visceral anatomy I am going to make a few remarks was born in the Society's Gardens on January 7th. It died on the following Wednesday, and was sent to Cambridge, where it was examined by Prof. Humphry, Mr. B. Anningson of Caius College, and myself, with the view, in the first instance, of ascertaining the cause of death. The animal was a female, weighed 87 lbs., and measured, from tip of snout to tip of tail, 3' 10". We found the thoracic viscera perfectly healthy, and normally disposed. The abdominal viscera were equally healthy, as far as each separate viscus was concerned; but there were numerous adhesions. The stomach was firmly attached to the posterior wall of the abdominal cavity; and the spleen was so closely adherent, under a fold of peritonæum, to the inferior surface of the stomach, that it was some time before we could find it. The omentum also, in a few places, adhered to the intestines*. In the stomach we found

* I make these statements with considerable diffidence, as our knowledge of the normal anatomy of *Hippopotamus* is so scanty. I have thought it best, however, to retain them as originally written, because they record the impressions made upon us at the time of dissection.