

specimen before the Meeting he owed to the kindness of Dr. Peters : it came, with others now in the Museum at Berlin, from the ponds of Count Frankenberg in Silesia.

These naked Carp are looked upon by German fishermen as hybrids of the Carp and Tench, hence the popular name of Schleihkarpfen in some districts.

Several living Spiegelkarp had been sent home from Berlin this year by Lord Odo Russell, and were now thriving in a pond at Woburn Abbey in Bedfordshire.

Dr. E. Hamilton, referring to the question of the great fecundity of *Hydropotes inermis*, read the following extract from a letter received from Shanghai, and dated April 3, 1873, upon this subject :—
“ I have been unable yet to procure a live Deer (*Hydropotes*), but have put beyond doubt that they have a great number of young at a birth. A female was shot near Taitan, at the end of February ; and on cutting her open seven young ones were found. They were placed in spirits ; and I have carefully examined them. So far advanced are they that you can plainly distinguish their feet and eyes.”

Mr. H. E. Dresser, F.Z.S., exhibited and made remarks on some rare birds from the Ural, amongst which were the Smew (*Mergus albellus*) in down, nestlings of the Rustic Bunting (*Emberiza rustica*), and several specimens of the bird described by Lilljeborg as *Salicaria magnirostris*, which last he believed to be identical with *Acrocephalus dumetorum*, Blyth, from India, as seemed to result from the comparison of Indian examples.

Mr. Sclater gave an account of the Gardens of some of the Zoological Societies on the continent, which he had visited during the past fortnight, and spoke of the principal novelties he had seen in them.

At Antwerp the series of Antelopes was, as usual, very fine, and embraced examples of the West-African form of the Blau-bok (*Hippotragus leucophaeus*), and pairs of the Bubaline Antelope (*Alcelaphus bubalis*) and Sing-sing (*Cervicapra sing-sing*). Amongst the Phasianidæ were a pair of *Aryus giganteus*, the female of which had deposited her first egg on the day of Mr. Sclater's visit (May 8th). The female Giraffe (*Camelopardalis giraffa*) obtained from this Society in 1866 had born two young ones, a female born June 10th, 1871, and another female born March 15, 1872. Both these and the parents were in excellent health and condition.

In the Rotterdam Gardens the most remarkable animal observed was a fine specimen of *Cryptoprocta ferox*, obtained from Hr. Van Dam, and probably the only specimen of this rare Madagascarian animal ever brought alive to Europe. Although in general external appearance more like a *Viverra* of some sort, it certainly exhibited cat-like actions, and was especially remarkable for its long rounded tail. A second rarity was a specimen of the Papuan Cassowary lately referred to and figured in the Society's 'Proceedings' (1872, p. 147,

pl. ix.) as *Casuarius kaupi* from the example still living in the Gardens. Of a pair of Lemurs which had bred together the male was of the form called *Lemur collaris* by Geoffroy, and the female of the form usually called *L. albifrons*, just as in the instance spoken of (P. Z. S. 1871, p. 230). The offspring (a female) more nearly resembled the mother. This Mr. Sclater considered was of importance, as giving further evidence of the truth of his theory that these forms were ♂ and ♀ of the same species.

In the Gardens of the Society "Natura Artis Magistra" of Amsterdam, under the care of Mr. G. F. Westerman, the series of representatives of the genera *Equus* and *Bos* and of the Crane-family (Gruidæ) were especially remarkable for their extent and perfection. Other rarities were a female of the Sable Antelope (*Hippotragus niger*) and a Tree-Kangaroo (*Dendrolagus*).

In the Garden of the Zoological Society of Hamburg the female Sumatran Rhinoceros (*Rhinoceros sumatrensis*) obtained about the same time as that formerly in this Society's Gardens* was one of the principal animals. Other rarities were a pair of *Gazella rufifrons*, recently received from West Africa, a male Water-buck (*Cervicapra ellipsiprymna*), the only living example of this fine Antelope that had occurred to Mr. Sclater, a male Koodoo (*Strepsiceros kudu*), and, amongst the birds, specimens of *Didunculus strigirostris* and *Coracopsis comorensis*.

The Zoological Gardens of Berlin had attained great development under the new organization introduced four years ago. Many fine new buildings had been erected, amongst which those devoted to the Feline Carnivora and the Antelopes were probably the most complete and best adapted to their purpose of any in existence.

The following papers were read:—

1. On African Buffaloes. By SIR VICTOR BROOKE,
Bart., F.Z.S.

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(Plate XLII.)

In the early part of last year I received from Mr. Edward Gerrard the skull and horns of a small but adult Buffalo (figs. 1 & 2), which interested me exceedingly, as it differed in a striking manner from any thing I had at that time seen, with the exception of one specimen in the British Museum. As Mr. Gerrard was unable to give me any reliable information respecting this skull, I was induced to investigate the history of the specimen somewhat resembling it in the British Museum, in order to discover, if possible, the exact locality from which the latter had been originally obtained. Although the result arrived at was not so definite as I could have desired, some facts bearing upon the subject of this paper were brought to light

* See remarks, P. Z. S. 1872, p. 790.