

MOULTING OF THE CRUSTACEA.—A. E. Murray, in his interesting paragraph on the above subject, does not intimate any acquaintance with the fact that crabs, lobsters, and other similar crustacea, withdraw the fleshy parts of their claws from the old shells by a splitting of the latter, at the narrow parts below, as Réaumur long ago supposed, though often denied since. Not only is this the case, but all the large-clawed crabs have their shelly coverings organized for the purpose, the line where the fracture is to take place being always to be seen. The cast-off shells certainly appear perfect at the narrow part of the claws; but a more careful examination in that of a shore or edible crab, a lobster, or a crawfish, will show that the narrow part has given way, and expanded at the valvular place alluded to, facilitating the withdrawal of the fleshy part of the claws. The writer, several years back, detected this splitting in exuvial claws cast off in the Zoological Gardens, and put on one side as a proof that there is no splitting. A less careful observation will convince any one if he will look out for a moulting crab in about six weeks.—G.

LONGEVITY OF THE GOOSE.—We do not recollect having seen any remarks made with reference to the natural life of this bird. A gentleman, however, who resides in this neighbourhood can testify that he has had a male and female of the genus in his possession for the last thirty-three years, and the old goose still continues to deposit her eggs every season, and would incubate regularly were she allowed. She has lived in a state of conjugal happiness with her lord and master during the greater part of that period, and the couple still seem to enjoy a full flow of health and spirits.—*Larne (Co. Antrim) Reporter, March, 1871.*

BARNACLES.—A Liverpool pilot-boat lately picked up in one of the channels of the port an empty brandy-bottle covered with barnacles (*Lepas anatifera*). This proves that the barnacle can attach itself to glass,—a fact which some have questioned. It also shows, as one of the local papers remarks, that a vitreous covering would not protect ships' bottoms from the attacks of these molluscs. The bottle has been placed in the museum of the town.—*A. H. A.*

PRESERVING PUPÆ THROUGH THE WINTER.—The other day I went to purchase some pupæ from the lock-keeper at Baitsbite, three miles from Cambridge, and I there saw a box in which he keeps those which he had collected. It struck me as an extremely well-planned one, and I will attempt to describe it. The sides and ends of the box (the size of which is of course optional) were of wood, sloping outwards from the bottom. The bottom was entirely of perforated zinc, and the top of the same material, except a space in the middle, occupied by

a wooden lid, by which to take the pupæ in and out. This box was kept out of doors in rather a sheltered position, and the pupæ well covered up in moss. When there has not been rain for some time the moss should be sprinkled with water occasionally. Let me add that this man at Baitsbite has some good insects for sale, as well as pupæ. When I was there he had plenty of *Papilio machaon* and *Egeria apiiformis*, the former of which I am afraid to say is slowly but surely disappearing from its old home in the fens as draining progresses.—*J. R. B. M., Stone, Staffordshire.*

THE DESCENT OF MAN.—The early progenitors of man were no doubt once covered with hair, both sexes having beards; their ears were pointed and capable of movement; and their bodies were provided with a tail, having the proper muscles. Their limbs and bodies were also acted on by many muscles which now only occasionally reappear, but are normally present in the *Quadrupana*.—*Darwin.*

"DURATION OF THE PUPA STATE" (p. 90).—I have remaining one pupa of the Privet (*Sphinx ligustri*) and two of the Puss Moth (*Cerura vinula*), of 1869. The others of that year, viz., five of the former and three of the latter, became imagos in 1870. The cocoon of one puss, having been slightly broken, has enabled me to ascertain that the pupa is still alive, but I cannot be certain of the vitality of the other.—*R. Egerton, 31, Victoria Road, Kensington.*

GORGONIA FLABELLUM.—Mr. Richmond says, in your last number, that he has seen on the north coast of Cornwall, thrown up by the sea, the axis or horny skeleton of this zoophyte. Is he certain that it was this gorgonia, or the *G. verrucosa*? They are very unlike; but my brother, Richard Quiller Couch, who paid close attention to the zoophytes and calcareous corallines of Cornwall, and published his researches in the third part of the "Cornish Fauna," says that "the only authority for making this species Cornish is Dr. Borlase, who at page 280 of his 'Natural History,' states that it was picked up in Mount's Bay after a storm." It was dead when found, and probably foreign. We have few observers, unhappily, on the north coast of Cornwall. The fan-like or reticulated form of *G. flabellum* is so unmistakably different from the branched appearance of the common *G. verrucosa*, that I am interested, as a Cornish naturalist, in knowing whether Mr. Richmond is certain of the species.—*Thomas Q. Couch.*

SUBTERRANEAN FISH.—An American paper, the *Montrose Republican*, contains the following interesting paragraph on subterranean lakes and eyeless fishes, seeming to show that the eyeless fish is a