

Shells from the Philippine Islands, as follows :

Helix pulcherrima,	H. cepoides,
H. polychroa,	H. florida,
H. concinna,	H. mirabilis,
H. Valenciana,	H. bizonata,

and three species not named. *From Dr. J. C. Jay, of N. York.*

A box containing fossils from Italy, was committed to Mr. Bouvé and, on motion, the thanks of the Society were voted to Sig. Michelotti for this valuable donation. *From Sig. Michelotti.*

Several specimens from Iowa territory, including Stalactite, Marble, Lead ore, Fossils and Soil, the latter from Huron Co., Ohio, were committed to Mr. Teschemacher. *Presented by Mr. Asa Ward.*

ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

An Address delivered before the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, by J. E. Teschemacher. Svo. pam. Boston, 1802. *Author.*

A Catalogue of the Phenogamous Plants of Columbia, S. C., and its vicinity. By Lewis R. Gilley. Svo. pam. 1835. Columbia, S. C. *Dr. H. I. Bowditch.*

A Catalogue of the Mammalia of Connecticut. By James I. Linsley. Svo. pam. New Haven, 1842. *Author.*

October 19, 1842.

Regular meeting—the President in the Chair.

The President read a paper by F. Boott, of London, entitled “Descriptions of Six North American Carices.” It is the beginning of a work which Dr. Boott has undertaken and intends to continue, and which he has thus far executed with great minuteness.

Mr. Teschemacher reported on some specimens of corn from Texas, and some minerals from Iowa.

The corn (*zea mays*) from Texas, has several envelopes to each kernel. Bonnafous, who has given a figure of it in his splendid work, ranks it as a species. Mr. T. had planted a single seed

which was enclosed in a single envelope, by his own hand, purporting to have come from the Rocky Mountains. When its seed had arrived at maturity, it was naked, as maize usually is. The same result has been witnessed by others ; if so, it cannot claim to be a distinct species, or at least, no specific characters can be founded on these envelopes.

He also reported upon some soil from Huron Prairie, Ohio.

It is clayey and adhesive, and, therefore, likely to retain moisture, and would probably prove, in a high degree, rich and fertile. The power of soils for retaining moisture, results from the salts and other substances contained in them, and is considered one of the most important properties for productiveness. He objected to the usual method of ascertaining the capacity of a soil for moisture, by subjecting it to intense heat, and then weighing the residuum ; for the loss of weight which is thus produced, may result from the disengagement of nitrogen, and other gaseous constituents.

Dr. Storer reported on the specimens of fishes from the Ganges, fifteen in number, presented by Mr. Reynolds at the last meeting.

They belong to six different species, viz. : *Lates nobilis*, Cuvier, described by Shaw, Gen. Zool. vol. iv. p. 563, under the name of *Holocentrus calcarifer*, from the spines on the operculum. *Corius polota*, Hamilton, "Fishes of the Ganges," plate 38, fig. 31. *Labrus jaculator*, Shaw's Zool. vol. xiv. p. 485,—derives its name from the instinct which it possesses, of projecting drops of water on insects, and thus securing them for its prey. *Ophicephalus manubrius*, Hamilton, pl. xxii. fig. 19. This species is said to be very tenacious of life ; in China, it is carried about in water, and pieces cut off for sale as they are wanted ; it brings a high price as long as life lasts ; but is not valued when dead. *Tetraodon fluviatilis*, Hamilton, pl. xxx. fig. 1. *Cyprinus rohita*, Hamilton, frequently acquires the length of three feet, and is considered most excellent food.

Dr. Storer also presented for the Cabinet a specimen of *Squalus mustelus*, Lin. *M. laevis*, Cuvier, or "Smooth Shark" of Pennant.