

of *Antilope gutturosa* (Spic. Zool. vii. 14, t. 2, 3. f. 14-17). The horns are like those of *Gazella dorcas*, but rather longer and with more numerous and closer rings.

The "Yellow Sheep of Mongolia" (*Procapra gutturosa*) is known from the nearly allied "Goa" of Tibet (*Procapra picticauda* of Hodgson) by its larger size and the shortness and thickness of the horns, which have their tips turned upwards. The two species agree in the length, softness, and colour of the fur, and in having a distinct white rump-spot. The horns of the Goa are much more slender, compressed, and longer than those of the Yellow Sheep, and have the tips bent rather forwards. The length of the horn, along the curves, of the adult Yellow Sheep is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches, of the Goa $11\frac{1}{2}$ inches. The latter has about twenty-four or twenty-five, and the former only twenty rings. There are also several differences in the skulls. The aperture of the front blood-vessels at the base of the horn in *P. gutturosa* is very much larger than that in *P. picticauda*. Pallas describes the horns of *P. gutturosa* as "*lutescenti-opaca*;" but in the two specimens in the British Museum they are of a dark blackish horn-colour, in this respect very different from those of the "Goa."

March 14, 1867.

Dr. J. E. Gray, F.R.S., V.P., in the Chair.

The Secretary read the following extract from a letter addressed to him by Mr. J. H. Thomson, of New Bedford, Massachusetts:—

"I notice in the 'Proceedings' (1865, pp. 390 &c.) some account of 'Deformity of the Lower Jaw of the Sperm-Whale,' by Dr. J. Murie. Such deformed jaws are by no means uncommon; there are at this time some four or five specimens of such in the collection of our High School and the Natural-History Society of this place, and I have seen quite a number besides. As to the cause of this deformity, whalers generally attribute it to the fighting-propensities of the young 'Bull' Whales. I have never seen a specimen except from male Whales. The difference of teeth mentioned on page 396, 'Proceedings' (1865), is not in accordance with my observations. The lower jaws are very frequently brought home in whalers, to use up as bone for manufacturers and for ornaments &c.; you can find them lying about in a great many places in this vicinity. I have myself seen Sperm-Whale jaws with the sides of the same jaw differing by one or two teeth—that is, one or two more on one side than the other. The male Sperm-Whales in the rutting-season are very jealous of each other; the old 'bulls' at that time fight and drive off the young males from the 'school' or herd. Their mode of fighting is with their jaws mostly, so much so that you can approach a Whale directly behind to fasten or harpoon

them. They use their 'flukes,' or caudal fins, much less than the Right or Whalebone Whales. They will often lock their jaws, and turn on their sides and twist about. As to this being the cause of deformity, of course it is only opinion, but the general opinion. Such deformed Whales are generally fat; but this is accounted for by the fact that they are generally 'lone,' or single Whales, and their food, which is the Squid or Cuttlefish, can be nearly as easily captured by the deformed jaw as by the other. The Sperm-Whale will often in his 'flurry,' or death struggle, vomit up large pieces of Squid. Our place being eminently a whaling city, portions of the skeleton of the Sperm-Whale, such as jaws, skulls, &c., are often brought home in our whale-ships. Should any of these be of use to you, I will endeavour to send you such as you may require, or any other specimens of natural history which may be of service to your honourable Society.

"I notice also a paper in the 'Proceedings' (1864, p. 170) on the Bonnet of the Right or Whalebone Whale. Such appendage or bonnet is an invariable portion of the Right Whale from the Northwest Coast and Arctic Sea; it is a development of the cuticle, similar to the nails of Mammalia, or the hoofs of the Ruminants."

The following papers were read:—

1. On the Skull of *Indris diadema*.

By ST. GEORGE MIVART, F.Z.S. &c.

(Plate XVIII.)

INDRIS DIADEMA.

Propithecus diadema, Bennett, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1832, p. 20.

Macromerus typicus, A. Smith, South African Journal, 2nd. ser. ii. p. 49 (1833).

Lemur diadema, De Blainville, Ostéographie, Primates, Lemur, pp. 23 & 37, pl. 8 (skull), pl. 11 (immature dentition).

Habrocebus diadema, Wagner, Schreber, Suppl. i. (1840), p. 260; v. p. 141.

Propithecus diadema, Lesson, Species des Mammifères (1840), p. 219; Van der Hoeven, Tijdschr. v. Nat. Gesch. xi. p. 44 (1844); Isid. Geoff. St.-Hilaire, Catalogue des Primates, p. 68 (1851); Dahlbom, Studia Zool. p. 203; J. E. Gray, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1863, p. 133; St. George Mivart, Proc. Zool. Soc. 1864, p. 638, and 1866, p. 167.

In March 1866 I had the honour of laying before the Society a description of a skin, a skull, and some other parts of the skeleton of the Woolly Lemur (*L. laniger* of Linnæus). At the end of that paper I gave the distinctive characters of that form and those of the Indri, adding such ones of *P. diadema* of Bennett as I had been able to gather from the scanty materials then accessible.

I am now enabled to complete that memoir, through the remarkable kindness and liberality of Professor Peters of Berlin, who has not only transmitted to me for examination a perfect and nearly adult skull of the *Propithecus diadema* of Bennett, but has expressly