I take the present opportunity of observing that yesterday, during a stroll in the meadows below the city, to procure specimens of the leech just described, I observed that many of the ditches, and several ponds, were teeming with the minute plant *Wolffia*, probably *W. Columbiana*, mingled with *Lemna polyrrhiza* and *L. minor*. In several places I also observed *Stentor polymorphus* swarming upon *Ceratophyllum demersum*, conspicuous by its bright pea-green hue upon the darker hue of the latter plant. In similar positions I also observed an abundance of *Volvox globator*. This latter I have frequently seen in the vicinity of our city, and, preserved in an aquarium, have observed it pass through the various stages representing what were formerly viewed as distinct species under the names of *V. aureus* and *V. stellatus*.

In the course of my walk, I noticed upon the margin of a ditch a large mass of jelly, about two feet in breadth and about two inches in thickness, the character of which I at first did not recognize. It reminded me of the jelly-fish or medusa (*Cyanea arctica*), so frequently seen stranded on the ocean shore of New Jersey. A nearer inspection proved it to be a mass of the remarkable compound ciliated fresh-water polyp, or polyzoon, formerly described by me under the name of *Pectinatella magnifica*, which had, by an unusual recedence of the tide, been left to die on shore. On examining the ditch in the vicinity, I observed many masses of the same polyp, varying from the size of one's fist to that of a boy's head, mostly attached to the pendent leaves of aquatic plants growing at the margins of the ditch.

Prof. Cope called attention to a large specimen of a *Trigonocephalus*, of which some fourteen inches was enclosed in the œsophagus and stomach of a larger *Oxyrrhopus plumbeus*. The specimens were from the island of St. Lucia, W. I. He stated that a species not distantly related to the latter (*Ophibolus getulus*) was said to have a similar habit of devouring our native Crotalidæ. The islands of Martinique and Guadaloupe had become so infested with the fer-de-lance, *Trigonocephalus lanceolatus*, as to be in parts almost uninhabitable, and that it was chiefly on account of the danger from this venomous reptile that collecting naturalists had of late years so seldom visited them. The annual number of deaths in Martinique from this cause was said to be very large. Some means had been adopted to check the increase of this pest, but with small results. Prof. Cope thought that as the *Oxyrrhopus plumbeus* was very numerous in Venezuela and Brazil, and since it was very harmless and easily procured, that its introduction in large numbers into Martinique, etc., would be a simple matter, and one probably to be attended with good results in the diminution, at least, of this enemy of agriculture.

Mr. Thomas Meehan called attention to the arrangements of some plants for preventing fertilization through any other than insect agency, as discovered by Darwin. The *Salvia* family of plants had the most elaborate arrangements for insect agency, but it had been objected to Darwin's theory that insects made no use of them. Bees bored holes through the tube from the outside for the honey, and do not enter by the mouth of the flower, as they ought. In the same way, in the *Petunia*, bees bore for honey from the outside. He had discovered that in these cases, where day insects failed to make use of these apparatuses, fertilization was carried on by night moths, so that the objections to Darwinism were removed.

He also referred to the common sweet chestnut, as bearing two classes of male flowers, only one of which probably aided in fertilization. The first class appeared ten days before the other, and are those which give whiteness to the trees. They appear in the axils of the weak shoots. The female flowers appear on the apices of strong shoots, according to his theory of the laws of sex. The second class of male flowers appear at the ends of the vigorous shoots bearing the female flowers. Whatever affects the vigor of the tree interferes with the production of female but not of male flowers, and this was the reason why some seasons had short crops.

[Aug.