tion and usually broken, but the following species have been identified :— *Phyllonotus nigritus* Mensch., *Strombus gracilior* Sby., *Arca grandis* Brod., *Chione dionœa* Menke, *Cardium procerum* Sby., and *Cardium consors* B. & S. These species, which formed part of the food-supply of the former inhabitants, are abundant in the fauna of the Gulf of California at the present day.

FEBRUARY 22, 1878.

ARSENIC ACID FOR PROTECTING ANATOMICAL PREPARATIONS FROM INSECTS.

By J. B. S. JACKSON, M. D.

Arsenic acid is most intensely strong, and comes in the form of a solid and of a liquid, and the two are of about equal strength. Half an ounce (avoirdupois) of the one, or one-half of a fluid-ounce of the other, is to be added to a pint (f℥ xvj) of soft water, and it is ready for use. Any membranous preparation that is to be distended and dried, as a portion of the alimentary canal, any of the hollow organs, an ovarian cyst, an aneurism, and many preparations that are not to be distended, will be most thoroughly protected, I believe, by the arsenical solution. A solution of corrosive sublimate will probably prove an equal protection; but the membrane, when dried, has a disagreeably opaque and ash-colored look, whereas, after the arsenical solution, it dries without any change. I cover the preparation fairly with the solution, and leave it for about twenty minutes, then take it out, let it drain, then inflate or distend it, and, lastly, hang it up to dry.

BOSTON, MASS., *February* 19, 1878.

THE OCEANIC BONITO ON THE COAST OF THE UNITED STATES.

By G. BROWN GOODE and TARLETON H. BEAN.

A specimen of the Oceanic Bonito, *Orcynus pelamys* (Linné) Poey, was captured off Provincetown, Mass., in July or August, 1877, and taken to the Museum of Comparative Zoölogy by Mr. James H. Blake. The specimen was lent to the Fish Commission for study. Drawings have been made, and a table of measurements and description are here presented.

The specimen measures 447 millimetres (17.6 inches) to the end of the caudal carina. In form it closely resembles *Orcynus alliteratus*. The caudal rays are frayed, and their length cannot be exactly determined. The height of the body is a trifle more than one-fourth (0.26) of the length. The circumference of the body (0.71) is equal to the distance from snout to origin of anal (0.70). The length of the head (0.30) is