I shall soon publish a full discussion of this subject. At present, my conclusions may be stated as follows:—

(1) The figure, while undeniably bad, resembles the menhaden very closely, while it cannot be intended to represent any allied species. The contour, were the missing dorsal fin supplied, is similar to that of the menhaden. The black spot upon the scapular region is constant in the menhaden only, though a similar one is occasionally seen upon the shad and alewife.

(2) The name "bay alewife" is the same now given to the menhaden in the Chesapeake and its tributaries. This is a strong argument: for although seventy-five years have passed since Latrobe wrote, the persistence of popular names is very remarkable, as I have elsewhere pointed out.* Moreover, Latrobe was also acquainted with a "herring" and a "shad". These being eliminated, there is no other fish than the menhaden to which the description in question can refer.

(3) The habits of the alewife, as described by Latrobe, are essentially the same as those of the menhaden at the present day. The alleged river-ascending habits of the "bay alewife" were thought to throw its identity with the menhaden out of the question. This is no longer an obstacle.

(4) The presence of the crustacean parasite is the strongest argument of all. While this is found in the mouths of a large percentage of the southern menhaden, suggesting the local name of "bug fish", it has never once been found attached to any other species, although careful search has been made by several persons. The northern menhaden is free from this parasite. This is still another reason for the failure to identify on the part of northern writers.

Latrobe's name has the priority over Mitchill's by thirteen years. It is to be regretted that it is necessary to replace by another a name so, appropriate and of such long standing.

JANUARY 1, 1878.

THE OCCURRENCE OF BELONE LATIMANUS IN BUZZARD'S BAY, MASSACHUSETTS.

By G. BROWN GOODE.

A peculiar species of *Belone* was obtained at Wood's Holl, in 1875, by Professor Baird. It was caught in the weir on Great Neck, owned by the Wood's Holl Weir Company. On study, it proved to be the form described by Professor Poey under the name *Belone latimanus*, and hitherto known only from Cuba. A good water-color sketch (Cat. No. 795) was made by Mr. Richard, a photograph (Cat. No. 218) taken, and the specimen and a finely colored cast (Cat. No. 16121) are preserved in the National Museum.

* Catalogue of the Fishes of the Bermudas, 1876, p. 15.

It may be distinguished from the common species of our coast, *Belone longirostris*, (Mitchill) Gill, by many characters, the most salient of which are the more elongate form, the lesser proportionate length of the head, the much greater number of rays in the vertical fins (*B. latimanus* has D. 25: A. 23. *B. longirostris* has D. 13–16: A. 16–19), the broader and proportionately shorter pectorals, and the forked caudal.

The length of the specimen was 49 inches (1244.6 millimetres), its weight 5¼ pounds (2381 grams).

Color:—Back, top of head, and snout dark green in dead specimen, probably beryl-green in life. Fin-rays greenish-brown. Fin-membranes and protected parts, such as axils of pectoral fins, colorless. Sides light brownish, with silvery overwash. Belly, cheeks, throat, and lower part of lower jaw silvery-white. Eye greenish-yellow.

Radial formula.—Branchiostegals XIV. D. 24: A. 25: C. 7–6 + 7–5: P. 12: V. 6.

January 15, 1878.

THE VOICES OF CRUSTACEANS.

By G. BROWN GOODE.

The observations of Mr. Saville Kent and Mr. J. Wood Mason (Nature, vols. xvi, p. 565, and xvii, p. 11) recall to mind some similar facts recently noted by me in the Bermudas.

Several species of *Alpheus* were observed to have the power of producing loud clicking sounds. Two or three of the larger species are accustomed to lurk under flat stones near low-water mark. Some of these are two inches long. When one of them is taken between the fingers by an inexperienced collector, the sudden, convulsive snap almost invariably causes him to drop it. The effect is like that of a sharp blow across the knuckles. Some smaller species of the genus are found only in the cavities of a large aplysine sponge, abundant on the reefs. I have picked out seventy or eighty from a fragment of sponge not more than three inches in diameter. When the sponge is taken in the hand, the quick succession of clickings reminds one of the sound of instruments in a large telegraph office. When one of these animals is put in an earthen or glass vessel, it makes a much louder noise, resembling a quick tap with the finger-nail or the back of a knife upon the edge of the same vessel. This noise is produced by a convulsive snapping of the last joint of the large claw, by a movement resembling that of the spring beetles (*Elateridæ*), and the sounds are quite similar. Possibly these movements may have a protective object, enabling the little decapods to escape from the grasp of enemies, or to work out from under the stones and loose sand in which they must often become buried.

Another macrurous crustacean, *Gonodactylus chiragra*, known to the