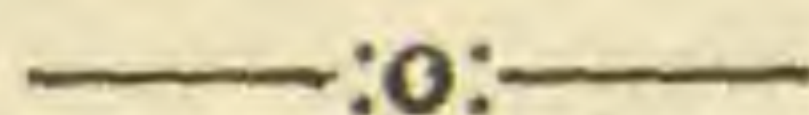


tated is that of the compensation of its members. The members of the French Academy receive a salary, and are paid for attendance besides. Additional compensation is given for labor on some of the committees. The government of Russia pays the members of its academy \$2000 per annum, and gives them excellent lodgings in the academy building. The United States, with its high esteem for education and scientific investigation, should not do less than the autocratic government of Russia, whose treasury is depleted, and whose people are so largely uneducated. As the case now stands, in our so-called democratic country, many members cannot attend the meetings on account of the necessary expense, and none but rich men can hold some of the leading offices.



RECENT LITERATURE.

NORWEGIAN NORTH ATLANTIC EXPEDITION, 1876-8.¹ — This valuable memoir was forwarded to the editorial committee in January, 1881, and proofs of the plates had been distributed some months earlier, but the publication has been delayed until now. It contains a review of the species of Buccinidæ native to the Northern and Arctic Atlantic ocean and its connecting waters. Most of the less-known forms are figured, together with the nuclear whorls, oötheca and dentition of a majority of species mentioned. The species treated of are *Chrysodomus turtoni* Bean, for which the new genus *Jumala* is proposed; to which also the *Neptunea ossiani* Friele, is referred; *Volutopsis norvegicus* Chemn., *Pyrolofusus deformis* Rve.; *Neptunea despecta* L. and varieties; *N. (Sipho) islandica* Ch.; *N. (Sipho) turgidula* Jeffr.; *gracilis* Da Costa (+ *glaber* Verkr.); *hanseni* Friele; *virgata* Friele; *curta* Jeffr.; *kroyeri* and *latericea* Möller; the sub-genus *Siphonorbis* with species *ebur* Mörch, *fusiformis* Brod., *dalli* Friele, n. s., *turrita* M. Sars, *lachesis* Mörch, *undulata* Friele n. s., *danielsseni* Friele, and varieties; the sub-genus *Mohnia* with *M. mohni* Friele; *Troschelia berniciensis* King; *Buccinum* with the following species: *B. undatum* with varieties, *ciliatum* Fabr., *gröndlandicum* Chemn., *undulatum* Müller, *finmarkianum* Verkr., *humphreysianum* Bennett, *hydrophanum* Hanc., *nivale* and *sulcatum* Friele (n. spp.), *terra-novæ* Beck, *glaciale* L., and *tenue* Gray.

It will thus be seen that this work contains rich material for the consideration of the student of Arctic mollusks and of groups in which discrimination is of extreme difficulty, as is fully recognized

¹ *Norwegian North Atlantic Expedition, 1876-8. Zoology VIII. Mollusca, I. Buccinidæ. By HERMAN FRIELE. 4to, pp. 37, with six plates and one map. Christiania (Dec.), 1882.*

by the author. Probably no two naturalists could be found who would agree on the systematic place or relations of all the forms of Arctic Buccinidæ which have been described. But we have not seen any discussion of them with which we felt a more general accordance than that in Mr. Friele's work. In regard to the general relations of the group we feel that the limits of Troschel in this, as in many other cases, are too narrow, and his distinctions for family rank too refined and too exclusive. In dental, as in other characters, the time is at hand for naturalists, who may not yet have done so, to realize that easy transitions from one group to another exist in a majority of cases and may be found by sufficient search. The genus *Jumala* of Friele, bears somewhat such a relation to *Strombella* Gray, as *Liomesus* Stimpson, does to some forms of *Sipho*. The median plate of the radula is edentulous. In this it agrees with *Beringius* Dall (1879), and a doubt arises as to their distinctness from each other. The type of *Beringius* is *Chrysodomus crebricostatus* Dall, from Alaska. The only criticism which occurs to us relates to one of the figures. We doubt extremely whether the oötheca figured as belonging to *Buccinum terra-novæ* Beck (Pl. III, f. 16, *a-b*), does not rather appertain to a *Neptunea*, as it resembles precisely that of several small forms of *Neptunea* allied to *despecta*, familiar to us in the northern seas, while we have never met with oötheca of such form belonging to a true *Buccinum*.—*W. H. Dall.*

GODMAN AND SALVIN'S BIOLOGY OF CENTRAL AMERICA.¹—This standard work on the zoölogy and botany of Central America and Mexico, though almost purely descriptive in its character, is of high value both from the carefully prepared text and well executed colored and plain plates. It will prove of particular value to the American biologist as it indicates in many cases the zoögeographical limits of many United States' species. Indeed, for a broad study of our mammalian and avi-fauna as well as our entomology, reference to this work will be indispensable. The editors, after several years' explorations in different parts of Central America, have put their collections into the hands of specialists for description. It is announced, however, that the editors will give, at the conclusion of the work, an introductory volume, wherein the physical features of the country will be described and illustrated with maps.

The mammalia have been enumerated and described by the late E. R. Alston, and the text occupies portions of the first seven numbers, and is illustrated with eighteen chromo-lithograph plates, drawn by Wolf, Smit and Keulemans, a guarantee of their excellency. Mr. Alston has brought together what little is known of the

¹*Biologia Centrali-Americana; or, Contributions to the Knowledge of the Fauna and Flora of Mexico and Central America.* Edited by F. DUCANE GODMAN and OSBERT SALVIN. Zoölogy, parts 1-15. Botany, parts 1-12. 4to. London, 1879-1882.