

and feeble depression, five lines by three lines, indicates that this species had a back-toe in the corresponding position with that in the *Apteryx*, but more rudimental.

A very remarkable femur and tarso-metatarsal bone, also from the Middle Island, were exhibited, belonging to an additional tri-dactyle species, to which the name of *Dinornis crassus* was given. Of this species the author remarks: "With a stature nearly equal to that of the Ostrich, the femur and tarso-metatarsus present double the thickness in proportion to their length. It must have been the strongest and most robust of birds, and the best representative of the pachydermal type in the feathered class."

The third new species is comparatively a small one, being intermediate in size between the *Dinornis didiformis* and the *Din. otidiformis*; it was founded on remains exclusively from the North Island, and was called by the author *Dinornis curtus*.

The paper (which was illustrated by numerous figures) concluded by some general comparisons and remarks on the geographical distribution of the different species of *Dinornis*.

MISCELLANEOUS.

Note on the Organogeny of Irregular Corollas. By M. BARNEOUD.

IN the *Orchidaceæ*, if a flower of *Orchis galeata* be examined in the very earliest condition, it will be found to consist of a simple cupula of very transparent tissue, on the border of which three round equal teeth soon become visible: these constitute the exterior verticil, which is formed exactly in the same manner as a true monophyllous calyx. In a short time a second cupula is seen to originate in the interior of the first, and its substance quickly becomes blended with that of the latter, except that its border exhibits three small prominences, perfectly equal and alternating with the teeth of the exterior verticil. Thus the author considers that organogeny clearly demonstrates in the *Orchidaceæ*, as in most other monocotyledonous families, analogues of the calyx and corolla of dicotyledons. The three nascent segments of the interior verticil of *Orchis galeata* are quite similar in the early condition, and it is not until a subsequent period that one becomes evidently broader and more fully developed than the two others; this it is which becomes the *labellum*. *Orchis Morio*, *Ophrys aranifera*, and two exotic genera, a *Maxillaria* and an *Oncidium*, presented exactly identical conditions.

In the *Labiataæ*, the corolla of *Lamium garganicum* when it first becomes visible is represented by a little cupula scarcely hollowed out at all, bordered by five teeth which are very short and at this time alone, quite equal, for two of them speedily cohere and become blended together to form a large, round and very convex lamella, which subsequently becomes the helmet of the *Lamium*. Of the three remaining teeth, the central one also becomes much larger than the others, which are always small and atrophied. The evolution of the didynamous stamens exposes the singular fact, that the

larger two originate rather before the other two, which they exceed in length at every period of their development. Among other *Labiata*, *Ajuga reptans*, *Scutellaria columnæ* and *commutata*, present us with the same phenomena. In *Phlomis fruticosa* the helmet is formed of two segments of the corolla, as in *Lamium*.

In the *Scrophulariaceæ* the segments of the nascent corolla are also equal, but only at their origin. The inequality always manifests itself very soon, and earlier in proportion to the subsequent irregularity of the corolla (*Antirrhinum majus*, *Linaria cymbalaria*, *Penstemon Scoulteri*, *Collinsia bicolor*, *Scrophularia verna*). In the genera which possess a fifth, supplemental stamen, this is formed at the same time as the two smaller and in the spot which remains vacant in the *Labiata*. The symmetry is then perfect.

In the *Aristolochiaceæ* (*Aristolochia Clematitis* and *Pistolochia*), the simple perigone composing the flower is, at its origin, a kind of tube, very short, at first with an equal and as it were truncated border; but this state persists but a very short time. One side of the mouth of the tube becomes much developed, so as to form the well-known limb of the Aristolochias, while the other undergoes but slight expansion.

In the *Verbenaceæ* (*Verbena urticæfolia*) and in the *Dipsacæ* (*Scabiosa ucranica* and *atropurpurea*), the irregular corolla follows the same law of development.

The petals of the *Leguminosæ* are equal and alike at the origin of the flower; but a difference of form and size very soon becomes evident (*Cytisus nigricans* and *laburnum*, *Ulex europæus*, *Erythrina cristagalli*).

The case is the same in the *Polygalaceæ* (*Polygala austriaca* and *chamæbuxus*). From all these circumstances we may conclude that the irregularity of the corolla, at least in the families cited in this note, is a condition arising after the first appearance of the flower, and is a consequence of an inequality of development among the different parts which compose the floral envelope.—*Comptes Rendus*, June 8, 1846.—A. H.

EXTRAORDINARY FLIGHT OF BUTTERFLIES.

To Richard Taylor, Esq.

Philosophical Hall, Leeds, July 20, 1846.

DEAR SIR,—As there is an account of a large flight of *Butterflies*, in one of the Canterbury papers, which passed over from France to England during the present month, without any precise statement as to the *species*, it would be very desirable if some reader of the 'Annals' could furnish that piece of information, so that a more *complete* record of the circumstance might be preserved. Should the above account have escaped your notice, I venture to send a copy of it, taken from the Leeds Mercury of July 18th:—

"*Extraordinary Flight of Butterflies*.—One of the largest flights of Butterflies ever seen in this country crossed the Channel from France to England on Sunday last. Such was the density and extent of the



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