

young man I was very intimate with him, and estimated his labours, but hardly so much as I have been induced to do in later years. He was one of the founders of the Botanic Garden at Hull, where he then resided; but he continued to cultivate plants when he resided at Little Chelsea, and at Church Lane, Old Chelsea; for he considered it desirable not only to study plants as they were kept in an herbarium, but also to observe them in a living state, that he might record their mode of growth. When we consider the manner in which he separated the fleshy plants, the Saxifrages, and the bulbous plants into groups, and especially regard the time in which it was done, we are astonished at the accuracy of his observations, which were so unlike the manner in which plants were then studied; and most of his groups are now acknowledged as genera or sections of genera. It was the same with his work on British Lepidoptera: there the various Linnean genera were divided into natural groups, which he fully characterized, all of which are now acknowledged as genera; and he would have been quoted as the author of those genera if he had given them generic names instead of the English or Latin adjective names which he applied to them. We must recollect that this was all original work, published before the writings of Cuvier, Latreille, and other founders of the French school (which was established during the early part of the despotism of the Great Napoleon), whose labours my late predecessor, tutor, and friend, Dr. Leach, first introduced to the knowledge of English naturalists.

On the Adult Form in the Genera Cypræa and Ringicula, and in certain Species of the Genus Astarte. By J. GWYN JEFFREYS, F.R.S.

Mr. Searles Wood, in the last Number of the 'Annals' (p. 172), invited communications on a question propounded by him, viz.:—"If small specimens [of *Cypræa europæa* and *Ringicula auriculata*] in the Crag, which have a thickened lip, are not in many instances young shells, what has become of the immature specimens?" I venture to suggest that young shells of both these species, having the usual thin and imperfect lip, will surely be found after further search. I have already given an explanation, in my work on British Conchology (vol. ii. pp. 309 & 310, and vol. iv. pp. 402 & 403) as to the front margin in *Astarte* and the outer lip in *Cypræa*, with reference to the age and size of specimens. I lately dredged in the North Atlantic *Ringicula auriculata*, Menard de la Groye (*R. buccinea*, Brocchi), *R. ventricosa*, J. Sowerby, and *R. acuta*, Sandberger (the last two species hitherto known as fossil only), all of which in their immature state had a thin and imperfect lip. The young of *Cypræa europæa* is the *Bulla diaphana* of Montagu.

I may also remark that any young shells "killed for food" would not be necessarily "consumed" or destroyed; so that I have no doubt they will occur in a fossil as well as in a recent state.

25 Devonshire Place, Feb. 15, 1871.



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