

doubt. Or are we to consider this as a gratuitous addition? if so, what authority are we to place in the other habitats given by this author? M. Petit objects to my having used two generic names so alike as *Lottia* and *Latia* (!), and further asks if the genus is distinct from *Grunlachia* of Pfeiffer. When he made this inquiry he could scarcely have compared the figures of the two shells, which are both given in his Journal.—JOHN EDW. GRAY.

The Anglesey Morris, Leptocephalus Morrisii.

In vol. ii. page 409 of the second edition of Yarrell's British Fishes, the fish mentioned above is described, and although "twenty specimens had then been taken, within a few years, on different parts of the coasts of England, Wales, and Ireland," there is no mention of it as having been found in Scotland. It is with great pleasure I am able to state, that one was taken at Wick, N.B., about six years ago, by a fisherman, who took it to Mr. Nichol, druggist, of Pulteney Town, Wick, in whose possession my son Joseph saw it, preserved in spirit, since which I have examined it, and find that it agrees in every respect with those described in Yarrell; it is about six inches in length, and in a good state of preservation.

As I have no work on the fishes of Scotland to refer to, I think it right to give publicity to this interesting addition to the Scottish Fauna.

CHAS. W. PEACH.

Wick, 18th Feb. 1854.

FIGURED PEARLS OF THE CHINESE.

Some years ago I described the Chinese mode of producing artificial pearls of a large size and regular form (Ann. Philos. ix. 27). Mr. Fortune has lately sent to England some specimens of *Dipsas plicata*, showing that the Chinese have improved on the process. In the specimen I formerly described, the artificial matrix was a plano-convex piece of mother-of-pearl producing a rounded pearl. In those now sent the pearls each represent a Chinese joss or sitting figure of about an inch in length, and there are often as many as eleven or twelve in each valve, forming three parallel lines, all with the head of the figure directed towards the margin of the shell. They are all of the same form and size, and the matrix is a soft white metal: it is evidently thin, as they do not add much to the weight of the shell. In the specimens I have seen the matrices are most regularly and evenly covered with the pearly layer, but the covering is so thin that I doubt if they can be used for ornament, and rather suspect that they are manufactured for the purpose of being sold as curious shells than for the purpose of setting.

M. Oscar Marescaux has kindly shown me some similar specimens sent from China by his brother Alfred, who procured them from Loo Choo Lake. He has also one of the pieces of metal taken from one of the shells; it is thin, rather brittle, and evidently cast from a kind of bell metal, with a concave inner and a smooth whitish convex outer surface, showing the copper colour on the edge.—JOHN EDW. GRAY.



Gray, John Edward. 1854. "Figured pearls of the Chinese." *The Annals and magazine of natural history; zoology, botany, and geology* 13, 238–238.

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