

ward. The determination of priority of names is a delicate matter in many of our Unionidæ, and it should be settled *officially* by a Committee on lines of equity, rather than by an individual. The same is true also, in discarding a so-called species, and in elevating a synonym to take the first rank.

We have so many species of Unionidæ in North America, that *extremists*, both at home and abroad, look upon the list as one that is over-loaded. A revision by Committee should command general acquiescence. It is not true that *our* nomenclature is burdened like that of Europe.

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#### NOTES AND NEWS.

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THE address of Mr. John Ford will be in future *Holmes Station, B. & O. R. R., Delaware Co., Pa.*

DR. W. S. STRODE has removed from Bernadotte to Lewistown, Ill., where he will hereafter be permanently located.

EXTRACTS from a letter to the Editor from DR. WM. H. RUSH, dated *U. S. S. Yantic, Montevideo, Uruguay, March 11, 1892.*—“Since being here I have been able to do very little and have not seen a native land shell. One trip out to the suburbs of Montevideo only yielded some *Helix lactea*. At Buenos Ayres I found the British Cemetery overloaded with *Helix pomatia*. In the swamps around Buenos Ayres I found an *Ampullaria* very common, which is, I think, *australis*, and while up at Palermo Park I found another which I took to be *canaliculata*. Further collecting around the swamps led me to believe that they are the same species. The coloration of the animal varies from a very dark brown to a light mahogany brown; the coloring of the animal also leads to corresponding variation in the color of the shell. Both forms are banded. I saw many in the act of copulation, a light with a dark individual, etc. I tried to preserve a lot of their eggs, but so far I have not met with any success. *Planorbis perigrinus* is also very common; also a species of *Paludestrina*. While walking down the Boca one Sunday afternoon I observed quite a crowd collected around a man standing on the curbstone. Upon approaching I saw that he was opening a bivalve which was being eaten by the people,

just as we eat oysters at home, excepting that he had scalded them first. Before I left I had secured fifty nice specimens, and learned the locality, which is Mar del Plata, a summer resort on the coast of Argentina. I can find no figure of it in d'Orbigny, and from Tryon's Structural and Systematic Conchology I judge it to be a *Lutraria*.

"*Helix lactea* is extremely common in the markets at Buenos Ayres, and I suppose it can be accounted for by the numerous Italians there.

"I want to mention that while coming down here we were boarded when three hundred miles off the coast of Brazil (lat. 30° 09' 07" S., long. 45° 36' 39" W.) by a swarm of decapods, they flying from the water and landing on our deck and in the chains. Our deck is at least twelve feet above the water, and to get upon it they had to go over the hammock nettings. I secured fifteen specimens of various sizes. There were hundreds more but they were injured so much by their fall as to be of no value. I enclose a hasty tracing from a water-color sketch I made from the largest one."

THE UNIONIDE of Spoon River, Fulton Co., Ill., are enumerated and intelligently discussed by Dr. W. S. Strode in the *American Naturalist* for June.

THE RECORDS of progress in American zoology which the *American Naturalist* publishes from time to time are a total failure as far as mollusks are concerned. The most prominent feature of the record is the omission of important papers. Our contemporary should not judge American malacology by the handful of papers that chance to fall upon his desk.

AT THE MONTHLY meeting of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, Australia, June 30, 1892, a paper was read entitled "On the Genus *Perrieria*," by C. Hedley, F. L. S. This paper deals with the rectification of nomenclature; it points out (1) that the type of *Coelaxis* is and must remain, not *exigua* Ad. & Ang., as misquoted by Fischer and Tryon, but *layardi* Ad. & Ang., as instituted by the founders; (2) that *exigua* was based in error upon specimens of *australis*; (3) that *australis* and *layardi* are generically incompatible; and (4) that *australis* (= *exigua*) is rightfully comprehended under the genus *Perrieria* Tapparone-Canefri.

An apropos addition to this "clearing up" may be made here. Aucey, in the *Conchologist's Exchange*, September 1887, p. 39,