

bifurcated, are ventral. These traces of bilateral structure are again met with in the buccal ring (of which the five ventral pieces are larger than the five dorsal pieces) and in the retractor muscles of this ring. —*Christiania's Videnskabselskabets Forhandlinger for 1858*, p. 176; *Bibl. de Genève*, Mai 1861, *Bull. Scient.* p. 78.

On the Occurrence of the Opah (Lampris lauta) on the British Coast.
By Dr. J. E. GRAY, F.R.S. &c.

A very fine and large specimen of this rare fish was caught at Herne Bay, on the 4th of July 1861. It has been presented to the British Museum by Mr. Simpson, of the Divan tavern, in the Strand. Another specimen was caught about the same time in Wigton Bay, and brought to the Liverpool market; it weighed 66 lbs., and is now in the Liverpool Museum. The first ray of the ventral fin has a curious angular bend in it, as if it was jointed, at about one-third its length from the base.

On the Japanese and Formosan Deer. By ROBERT SWINHÖE.

Mr. Robert Swinhoe (in a letter dated "British Consulate, Amoy, China, April 5, 1861") remarks:—

"I see in the 'Annals and Magazine of Natural History' for February 1861, page 143, on the Japanese Deer, that a mistake has occurred owing to incorrect information. Mr. Blyth describes a Deer under the name *Cervus taioanus* from the skull of an adult I sent him. This was procured from the Formosan Deer supposed to be *C. pseudaxis*. Subsequently I sent him four live Deer, which I distinctly informed him were received from Japan; but whether through inability to read my letter, or for some reasons to me unknown, he set down in his belief that the old buck was from Formosa and the other three from Japan. All four of the Deer sent him were from Japan, and the skull alone from Formosa. There can be no possible doubt that the former belong to any other than the Japanese species *C. sika*, Schleg., of the 'Fauna Japonica.' That the Formosan Deer is distinct from the Japanese I have no shadow of doubt, from the various opportunities I have had of comparing the animals from the two different places. The old Formosan bucks stand at least one foot higher than the Japanese bucks, and their horns are somewhat flattened at the end; one of the former has been sent by the Dutch Consul here to Leyden. I am doing my utmost to procure a pair of these handsome animals for the Zoological Gardens. I am told that a Stag is also found near Ningpo, but have never seen examples. The large species from the north found in the Summer Palace Gardens, of which I sent three skins to the Zoological Gardens, you will be able to determine as soon as the 'Harkaway,' in which vessel they were shipped, arrives in England. If the Zoological Society will remunerate the masters of the vessels for the conveyance of live Deer to England, I dare say I can manage to defray all expenses here in procuring the animals."—*Proc. Zool. Soc.* June 11, 1861.