children excite more or less fear. I have often wondered why they were called "cow-killers;" having till the past summer never heard of any animal or person being injured by them. A cow, however, eating grass, and with the nose pressing one of them would probably be stung very severely. The sting, long, black and sharp, can be protruded almost the length of the whole body. Last summer I met with two persons who had been stung by the Mutilla—one, a negro man, who was stung when a cow-boy in Virginia; the other, now owner of Ballew's Creek Mills, in Forsyth Co., when a boy was riding under a dogwood bush, and knocked off one which fell into his shoe. The pain from the sting was great, the foot swelled, and he was lamed for a few days; but in neither of the cases were the symptoms alarming.

This insect is remarkably tough—difficult to kill. Unless the ground is very hard, it may be trodden upon with the boot, and rubbed and scrubbed into the earth, and yet when the foot is removed it will work itself out and run off apparently unhurt. Its whole envelope has the toughness of leather. The specimens sent are evidently larger than the *M. europæa.—Nereus Mendenhall, M. D., Westminster, Guilford Co., N. C.*

ZOÖLOGY.

TRANSACTIONS OF THE LINNÆAN SOCIETY OF NEW YORK.—This Society, which has been in existence for several years, issued in December, 1882, its first volume of Transactions in royal octavo form of 168 pages, and is unexceptionable as regards paper and presswork. The spirit of the papers making up the text is excellent, as they are based on extensive and painstaking field work. The first article is the longest, it is devoted to a fresh and valuable account of the mammals of the Adirondack region, a work which we have noticed in another place. The second article, by Mr. Wm. Dutcher, is entitled "Is not the fish crow (*Corvus ossifragus* Wilson) a winter as well as a summer resident at the northern limit of its range?" He answers the question in the affirmative, the evidence tending strongly to show that the bird is a permanent winter resident in its northern habitat, instead of a rare summer visitor. The third and last article is "A review of the summer birds of a part of the Catskill mountains, with prefatory remarks on the faunal and floral features of the region." By E. P. Bicknell. Some of the mammals and all the batrachians and reptiles noticed in the Catskills are enumerated. The author does not accept the claim that two efts, *Diemyctylus miniatus* and *viridescens* are identical, as claimed by a writer in this journal (xii, 399). The paper is an interesting and comprehensive sketch of the natural history of a beautiful mountain region.

REMARKS ON THE DISTRIBUTION OF MARGARITANA MARGARITIFERA (LINN).—Already much has been said in the pages of the NATURALIST in regard to this species, yet a fuller exposé of its east-

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ern distribution may not be without interest. Mighels in his Catalogue of the Shells of Maine (Boston Jour. Nat. Hist., vol. IV., p. 325, 1843), says: "This species is plentiful all over the State. * * * It occurs plentifully at Cape Elizabeth, near the sea" "Specimens from different localities differ much among themselves, being more or less curved, or elongated, and some are perfectly straight, differing in no respect from *U. sinuosa* and *elongata* of Lamarck, from Germany and France. With Mr. Lea I believe them identical." E. S. Morse, in his "Observations on the Terrestrial Pulmonifera of Maine" (Journ. Portland, Soc. Nat. Hist., 1864, pp. 47 and 52), refers to the species as common and "found in great numbers in several rocky, muddy brooks, near Portland. Have rarely found it in the interior." The species is by no means rare in Massachusetts. It occurs in Charles river, at Newton, Mass., the shells are here well developed; at Lunenburg the shell is found in small brooks and the specimens are diminutive in size, scarcely attaining a length of 2½ inches; it is also found at Leominster, an adjoining town, and under similar conditions. At the village of Haydenville, a part of Williamsburg, in Hampshire county, it is found in the greatest abundance, very perfect, and of large size, in the tributaries of Mill river; it is doubtless found in the streams of Worcester county, in the central portion of the State. Gould, in his "Invertebrata of the State" (both editions, 1841 and 1870), gives it as found in many of the streams of the State, but not near the seaboard. Dr. James Lewis, in his "Shells of New York," includes it by name only, giving no localities, he not having had access to De Kay's "Mollusca of New York," while making his list. De Kay gives it as "one of the largest and most common Unios," and as "from Rockland county, Champlain, Oneida and many other localities." J. F. Whiteaves in his paper "On the Land and Fresh Water Mollusca of Lower Canada" (p. 17), says: "Very large and fine in St. Charles river, near Quebec; J. F. W. Green and Rimouski rivers; both of the Matapedia lakes; Lake St. John, R. B." In his "Mollusca of Nova Scotia, 1877," J. Matthew Jones says: "Fresh water lakes and streams." During a visit to the southwestern portion of Nova Scotia in 1879, by the writer, while making an examination of the lakes and water-power of Yarmouth and the lower portion of Digby counties, he observed large numbers of Unios and Anodontas in the region, but failed to discover *M. margaritifera*.

In the spring of 1882 specimens were received from Professor A. Hyatt, of Boston, for identification; they were collected by him at the Island of Anticosti, in Fox river, during the summer of 1881. Professor Hyatt had previously visited the island in company with Professors Shaler and Verrill, in 1861, and made large collections for the Agassiz Museum, at Cambridge, and though the fresh waters of the islands were then diligently

searched no Unionidæ were found. It is not improbable that the *Margaritana margaritifera* made its advent during that interval; its occurrence upon this sea-girt and isolated island, separated from the main land by at least twenty miles of open water, is an interesting fact, and presents a problem in the distribution of fresh-water shells, which only the methods of Darwin can surmount. The occurrence of the form *falcata* of Gould in the waters of Oregon, the occurrence in the streams emptying into Columbia, and into Puget sound, as recorded by Cooper; the localities recorded by Carpenter, east of the Rocky mountains; and the known high range of the species in Europe, make its occurrence in the intermediate portions of the British possessions not improbable, and I confidently look for it in these waters, when they are more fully examined.—*A. F. Gray.*

THE SYSTEMATIC POSITION OF THE ARCHIPOLYPODA, A GROUP OF FOSSIL MYRIOPODS.—Mr. S. H. Scudder early last year published in the Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History an elaborate paper, with four excellent plates, entitled "Archipolypoda, a subordinal type of spined Myriapods from the Carboniferous Formation." The author has been fortunate in obtaining valuable material for this work, and has with great evident pains and throughness worked out the characters of these Myriopods, the remains of which belong to four genera and twelve species. He regards the Myriopods as an "order," and the Chilopoda and Diplopoda as "suborders," and proposes for the group of Carboniferous Myriopods under consideration the term *Archipolypoda*, considering them as constituting a group equivalent in rank to the Diplopods (or Chilognaths).

The *Archipolypoda* are thus characterized; "Palæozoic Myriapods, with a fusiform body, largest near the middle of the anterior half or third, the head appendages borne upon a single segment; each segment behind the head composed of a single dorsal and two ventral plates, the dorsal of nearly uniform length superiorly and inferiorly, occupying most of the sides as well as the top of the body; destitute of foramina repugnatoria, and divided into ridged anterior and flat posterior portion, the anterior provided with longitudinal rows of spines or tubercles; the ventral plates occupying the entire ventral portion, each having a pair of long jointed legs, and furnished outside of them with large spiracles, the mouth transversely disposed."

Having been recently studying the Lysiopetalidæ, a rather aberrant and synthetic family of Chilognaths, we have, after reading Mr. Scudder's memoir in order to ascertain their relation to his Archipolypoda, felt obliged to dissent from some of his conclusions, though not doubting the evident accuracy and clearness of his descriptions of the remains upon which his genera and species are based.

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