

The following papers were read :—

1. "On Protoplasmic Connections in the Lichens." By Dr. J. H. Salter. (Communicated by Prof. J. B. Farmer, F.L.S.)
2. "On Foraminifera collected round the Funafuti Atoll from Shallow and Moderately Deep Water." By Frederick Chapman, A.L.S.

December 19th, 1901.

Prof. S. H. VINES, F.R.S., President, in the Chair.

The Minutes of the last Meeting were read and confirmed.

Prof. G. B. HOWES exhibited a marine organism received from Dr. Gilchrist, of South Africa. It measures 15 cm. in length, and is structureless and transparent, in section four-sided, with its angles prolonged and each intervening area concave. A central tubular cavity is present, and at one end a deep constriction, which may be due to wave-action or other artificial causes. Ideas of a Ctenophoran, the cast-off test of a Tunicate of the Distoma type, of a Myxicolid worm-tube, an egg-capsule, and others which had occurred, had all been discarded; and after having submitted the object to a dozen trained experts, he put it forward in the hope of obtaining a clue to its significance and zoological position.

In commenting upon this exhibit, the President said he believed the occasion was probably the first in the history of the Society when an object had been laid upon the table to which no one present could give a name.

Prof. HOWES also exhibited a mounted specimen of the Giant Argulus (*A. scutiformis*) from a Japanese *Tetrodon*, which he had received from Prof. D'Arcy Thompson. The creature measured 3 cm. in length, and his attention was first drawn to it on a recent visit to the Berlin Museum, where to the best of his recollection there is a larger example, and where the species is being fully worked out.

The Rev. T. R. R. STEBBING, in commenting on the exhibit, made some remarks on the species *A. giganteus*, and observed that in the kindred genus *Dolops* there is a species (*D. longicauda*) which about equals in size the specimen exhibited. He showed a specimen of the giant Ostracod received from Dr. Gilchrist, which he had named *Crossophorus africanus*, the animal being almost as large as a cherry.

Mr. J. E. S. MOORE exhibited the entire specimen and a microscopic preparation, with drawings, of a new Polyzoon, encrusting the shell of *Paramelania*, dredged on the West coast of Lake Tanganyika, at a depth of 25 fathoms. He showed it to be typically gymnotæmatous, and to present characters most nearly suggestive of the marine genus *Arachnidium*.