hinder part, and the right half a new leg, The complete organisms thus formed again developed by spontaneous division. Simultaneously with Herr Nussbaum's experiments Dr. A. Gruber artificially divided *Stentor cœruleus* with the same results. If the divided parts of a Stentor were not completely separated they almost tore themselves apart, sometimes by rotating in opposite directions. If the cut was not very deep, monstrous forms might be produced, as, for instance, with two complete anterior or two posterior portions.—*English Mechanic.*

Organisms in Ice.—Professor Leidy relates that he had placed in his hands for examination, a vial of water obtained from melting ice which is used for cooling drinking water. From time to time, among some sediment taken from a water-cooler, his informant had observed what he supposed to be living worms, which he suspected were introduced with the water into the cooler, and not with the ice. Upon melting some of the ice alone, the worms were still observed, and the water submitted for examination was some that was thus obtained. Professor Leidy was surprised to find a number of worms among some flocculent sediment, mainly consisting of vegetal hairs and other débris. Besides the worms, there were also immature Anguillulæ, and a number of *Rotifer vulgaris*, all living. It would appear that these animals had all been contained in the ice, and had been liberated on melting. It was an unexpected source of contamination of drinking-water, that Professor Leidy had previously supposed to be improbable.

The worms were probably an undescribed species of Lumbriculus. Several dead worms swarmed in the interior with large, ovate, beaked, ciliated infusorians, measuring from 0.05 to 0.06^{mm} long by 0.04 to 0.48^{mm} broad.—*Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society, February, 1885.*

A Fresh-water Sponge from Mexico.—

Myenia mexicana, n. sp.—Sponge (as seen from an alcoholic preparation) green, minute, encrusting Lemna and other water plants.

Gemmulæ spherical, surrounded by a close series of berotulate spicules, embedded in a granular crust.

Skeleton spicules long slender, gradually pointed, smooth or very minutely microspined.

Dermal spicules wanting.

Berotulate spicules pertaining to the gemmules in length about three times the diameter of the rotules; shafts nearly cylindrical, sometimes more slender near the middle; irregularly spined; spines long acute. Rotules flat, deeply notched, rays irregular, acute.

This species, collected by Professor E. D. Cope in Lake Xochimilco, about seventeen miles south of the City of Mexico, differs from the familiar *M. fluviatilis* chiefly in the far greater length of the shafts of the berotulate spicules. It is further interesting as being only the second species of fresh-water sponge to reach the hands of specialists from that region of N. America. These particular specimens were probably collected in an immature condi-

tion, as suggested by the abundance of sarcode and the scarcity of gemmulæ or statoblasts; the single small group of these organisms alone rewarding a careful search through the whole mass of material sufficed to fix its generic position.—*Edward Potts.*

A Hermaphroditic Crab.—While conducting an exercise in zoölogy a short time ago using the common crab (*Callinectes hastatus*) I noticed one specimen having an abdomen intermediate in form between that of the normal male and female specimens. I at once inferred that it might be a case of hermaphroditism, which I think it is. The abdomen is triangular and except the terminal portion or telson is devoid of joints; the joints of the normal female abdomen being represented by indistinct lines. The abdomen was firmly imbedded in the plastron, it being evidently not within the animal's power to "open" it. The abdominal appendages resemble in general those of the female, although much more attenuated and having an undeveloped appearance. The fifth pair of pereiopods lack the reproductive orifice in the basal joint found in the male; nor is the first pair of pleopods modified into copulating organs. The two little hooks fastening the abdomen into its groove are present; while there are only impressions representing the opening through the female plastrons for the expulsion of the eggs. When examined the internal organs were not in condition for a minute examination, still it is evident that neither male nor female organs were normally developed, as these organs were distinct in other specimens in similar condition, while they could not be found in this one.—*A. L. Ewing, New York, June 29, 1885.*

Discovery of Blind Fishes in California.—At Santa Clara College in the San José valley is a flowing artesian well 170 feet deep, from which are discharged sightless fishes, from one to two inches long. I shall make arrangements to send specimens of these to Professor Baird, United States Fish Commissioner, who informs me that he has eighteen varieties or species of blind fishes from Eastern artesian wells; none have been secured from this coast.—*J. D. Caton.*

The Mule Deer in Domestication.—I find here three specimens of *Cervus macrotis* var. *californicus* in domestication, which have given me an opportunity of observing them not hitherto enjoyed. This variety of the mule deer I first discovered at Santa Barbara in 1875 and spent nearly a week in the mountains and procured specimens for mounting, which I sent to the Smithsonian Institution, and I first described them in The Antelope and Deer of America, p. 95. While they are a true Macrotis, the variety is very distinct, the enormous ear which induced Lewis and Clark, who first discovered them, to call them the mule deer is common to both varieties, but the ear on this new variety I now find is not