

had received from Captain David Herd, of the Hudson's Bay Company's service, with the information that they had been brought by that Company's vessels from Barrand's Inlet, Washington territory, North-West America. The captain who brought them stated that they were the backbones of a gelatinous fish, shaped like a conger-eel, very common in that inlet, which swam about in shoals with the dog-fish; that in the living animal the backbones were also transparent like the rest of the animal, but became ossified when dried on the beach. Dr. Gray, of the British Museum, recently described these rods as the axis of a pennatulide animal, and referred it to his genus *Osteocella* under the name *O. septentrionalis*; but Dr. Sclater, supposing the facts supplied him to be correct, considered the "rods" to be the ossified notochords of some low organised fish, with the skeleton wholly cartilaginous, partially belonging to the lampreys or to the chinoeroid group.

*A new Asiatic Rhinoceros.*—Dr. Sclater, F.R.S., read a paper on a "New Asiatic Rhinoceros," with remarks on the recent species of the genus. On the 14th of February last, he said, the Zoological Gardens of London received a female two-horned rhinoceros, which had been captured near Chittagong four years previously. This animal had been referred to *Rhinoceros Sumatrensis* of Cuvier by the author and other writers, that being the only species of the two-horned section of rhinoceros hitherto recognised by naturalists. The acquisition of a female of the veritable *Rhinoceros Sumatrensis* from Malacca had enabled the author, after comparison, to conclude that the first-mentioned specimen belonged to a different species, which he proposed to call *Rhinoceros lasiotis*, on account of its most obvious external peculiarity being the long hairs which fringe the ears. The existing number of rhinoceros certainly known he considered to be six, of which four belonged to the Asiatic group and two to the African group.

*Rheumatism in Whales.*—Professor Struthers made a communication to the British Association on the sternum and pelvic bones in the right whale and in great fin whales, showing great variations in form, even in different species. He mentioned a curious circumstance in the osteology of whales, viz., that these animals are very liable to rheumatism. He had, he said, seen many examples of rheumatic ostitis in whales of different kinds. It had been said that animals were not subject to disease until they were brought into connection with man; but the fact he had mentioned contradicted the theory. It was the more remarkable, seeing that whales were less liable than man to variations of temperature; and the cold water cure (as a witty friend had observed) did not seem to be efficacious in the cure of the disease in question. The Professor made a communication also on the occurrence of finger-muscles in the bottle-nose whale (*Hyperodon bidens*). A dissection of the fin of a whale of this species (a male 20 feet in length) was exhibited, showing the presence of finger-muscles corresponding to those in man, and also (according to the Professor) the biceps muscle transferred from the scapula to the head of the humerus. A piece of the gum of the lower jaw was likewise shown, in which a concealed tooth was sunk about half an inch below the surface. He asked what could be the use of teeth in such a position? He could only infer, from the existence of such rudimentary structures, that the animal was descended from a species pos-