

referrible, partly to *H. Wüllerstorffi* and partly to a new species. What the others may be, I of course cannot say, but it is not improbable that there are other species amongst them.—F. B. W.]

XVII.—ROBERT M'LACHLAN, F.R.S.

The Entomologists Monthly Magazine, vol. vii. 1870-71.

After giving a summary of Professor Giglioli's paper, the author proceeds to say :—

“ These notes have a peculiar interest for me, as exciting reminiscences of a voyage of thirteen months' duration I made when a youth, in 1855-56. This voyage was marked by a most immoderate amount of calms (in one case extending to thirty consecutive days, in the hottest part of the China Sea), and I lost no opportunity of fishing up—and, I am sorry now to say, casting away,—the, to me, wonderful forms always floating around. Long before crossing the line, on the outward voyage, I was struck by small whitish creatures which often appeared coursing with great rapidity over the surface of the ocean ; at length one was captured, and I well remember my astonishment on finding it was a spider-like insect, of the affinities of which I then knew nothing. They disappeared, or rather were lost to view, as soon as a breath of wind caused a ripple on the surface, but were common in that most unpleasant form of sea-disturbance in which there are great ‘ smooth ’ waves, the effect of a recent storm, but with no present wind. In the Atlantic, Indian, and Pacific Oceans, it only needed the required state of the sea to bring these merry coursers to view, and certainly often without the presence of the smallest piece of floating sea-weed. Those who have voyaged will bear me out when I say that, excepting in the mysterious Sargasso-sea, in the course of the oceanic currents, and in the vicinity of land, sea-weed may be looked for with as much chance of finding it as daisies. I should here state that the brilliant white appearance of the insect on the ocean is caused by the pellicle of air that surrounds it, the creature itself being blackish. If these notes should be read by any one of those ‘ who go down to the sea in ships,’ I would remind him that, if he can throw any light upon the life-history of this most wonderful insect (how many species there may be I know not), he will confer the utmost benefit upon natural science. The *Trichodesmium* alluded to by Giglioli is a minute confervoid plant which sometimes covers the surface of the ocean like fine sawdust.”

XVIII.—Professor KARL SEMPER.

The Natural Conditions of Existence as they affect Animal Life, p. 144 ; also note on p. 434, 1881.

“ In the Pacific Ocean and Philippine Sea I have myself often found various insects and even spiders in the sea, sometimes swimming in great numbers on the surface, sometimes