

*Observations on the particular Appendages of the Caudicula in the Sexual Apparatus of Orchideæ, and in several species of the tribe of Vandææ, by M. Mutel.*—The distinctive character of the tribe *Vandææ* is the presence of the *Caudicula*, whose office is to bind the pollen masses to the gland of the stigma. This *Caudicula*, examined with care, offers particular appendages, which are the true ligaments serving to hold the masses of pollen on the *Caudicula*. These ligaments, most frequently very short, and rarely more than one or two in number, are sometimes simple, sometimes bifid, or two-lobed, sometimes much developed, sometimes scarcely distinct, and nearly always of another colour, or at least of a different tint to the *Caudicula*. They are generally entirely lodged in the interior of the pollen masses, or in their furrows, when such exists; or further they are surrounded by their approximated bases, so that they are always invisible when they are in their situation. But when the masses are gently dispersed, the ligaments may be seen to become by degrees disengaged and elongate considerably, until the moment of the separation of the masses, and thus having become free at the summit they suddenly shorten, and remain at the summit of the *Caudicula* of a variable shape, but constant in each genus, and as they have marked diversities of form in different genera, I have given them the name of *freniculæ* (frenicules) to these ligaments, as independent of their particular form, and indicating their special use. These *freniculæ* form, according to their nature, colour, elasticity, and state, the passage of the masses of pollen to the *Caudicula*. In the case of the bifid, or two-lobed state of the *freniculæ*, they separate into two distinct branches, each of which then holds a mass of pollen.—*Comptes Rendus*, 17 Aug. 1840.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE MICROSCOPICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

March 17th, 1841.—*George Loddiges, Esq. F. L. S. in the Chair.*

Dr. John Lee, Mr. Thomas Law Wheeler, and Mr. H. White, were proposed as members.

A paper was read from Mr. George Busk, Surgeon to the S. H. S. Dreadnought, being "Observations on the Structure of *Tricocephalus dispar*." This communication will be inserted entire in our next.

The Chairman stated that, owing to the increasing number of specimens and books recently acquired by the Society, the Council considered it necessary to appoint an office of Honorary Curator and Librarian; and they were happy to be able to recommend Mr. John Quekett, a gentleman they considered eminently qualified to fill the office. The recommendation on being submitted to the Meeting was carried unanimously.

It was also stated that the Report read at the First Anniversary Meeting, together with the President's Address, had been printed, and was ready for distribution.

The Meeting then resolved into the usual Microscopic Illustration and Conversazione.