

look upon these affairs with the most stoical composure. Were they in my position, they would soon feel their magnanimity very sensibly diminished, and rapidly oozing away from them. For the last four years I have been subjected to great annoyance in consequence of Prof. Hall's extraordinary practice of antedating his publications, and I have a perfect right, and shall not hesitate on every occasion, to resist in the most public manner.

E. BILLINGS.

Montreal April 15, 1862.

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## REVIEWS AND NOTICES OF BOOKS.

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*A Manual of the Sub-Kingdom Cœlenterata.* By JOSEPH REAY GREENE, B.A., Professor of Natural History in the Queen's College, Cork. London, 1881. Longman & Co. 12mo, pp. 271.

"The author of this work is already favourably known by his "Manual of Protozoa," with a general introduction on the Principles of Zoology—which is an excellent text-book for students. The present volume is an abridgment of a larger work, which the author hopes ere long to publish. The Cœlenterata include such animals as the Hydra, Sertularia, Medusa, Actinia, and Zoophyte. They are all furnished with an alimentary canal, freely communicating with the general or somatic cavity. The substance of the body consists essentially of two separate layers; an outer, or ectoderm, and an inner, or endoderm. These two membranes, but especially the former, are in general provided with ciliæ. In the integument of those organisms we constantly meet with peculiar thread-cells, which, when they come into contact with the human skin, frequently produce disagreeable stinging sensations. The sub-kingdom is divided into two orders:—1. *Hydrozoa*, in which the wall of the digestive sac is not separated from that of the somatic cavity, and the reproductive organs are external; 2. *Actinozoa*, in which the wall of the digestive sac is separated from that of the somatic cavity by an intervening space, subdivided into chambers by a series of vertical partitions, in the faces of which the reproductive organs are developed. The author gives the morphology, physiology, classification, and distribution as regards space and time, of the animals included in these two orders. The facts are stated in a clear and interesting manner, and are