

THE CONCHOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF SOUTHERN AFRICA

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A HAPPY AND PROSPEROUS NEW YEAR to all Members, with good shelling!

MEETING:

As advised in Circular No. 16, our next meeting will be on Tuesday, 17th January at 8 p.m. in the S.A. Museum. Members are reminded to bring their shells for our exhibition at the conversazione.

MEMBERS PLEASE NOTE !

The Treasurer wishes to draw the attention of members to the fact, that whereas it was the intention of the Society to issue Membership Cards only to those members who had paid their subs to date, he nevertheless felt that he did not want the members who had not paid to feel neglected, so cards were issued, but not officially signed by him. Under the circumstances, will those who have subsequently paid please return their cards for dating and official signature by the Treasurer. Thank you!

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GENERAL NOTES

Recently at the request of Mr T.E. Crowley - Secretary of the Conchological Society of Great Britain and Ireland, the writer furnished full details regarding our own Society, together with a copy of one of our Circulars.

I have now received a letter from Mr Cowley, d.d. 29/8/60, from which I append an extract:-

" I was most pleased to have details of the Southern African Conchological Society, which is obviously a lively and thriving association, and I shall certainly publicise these at the October meeting of the Conch. Soc. of Great Britain and Ireland."

(D.H. Kennelly)

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A NEW BOOK ON SHELLS

Mr Maxwell Smith - a well-known semi-scientific writer - in the U.S.A., has published yet another work this year.

It is entitled "Universal Shells". Nearly 300 pages and about 2000 figures, some in colour. First part, Cephalopoda, Gastropoda and Amphineura. Nett. \$7.50. Order direct from the author, Maxwell Smith, P.O. Box 8295, Asheville, N.C. U.S.A.

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SUPPLEMENTARY TO THE NOTES BY MR J.S. HUTT ON "BABY SHELLS",
CIRCULAR NO. 10: by D.H. Kennelly.

I was very interested in Mr Hutt's remarks, which recalled my own efforts to secure the really small - but adult - shells from 1 m.m. upwards.

Finding suitable shale at Jeffreys Bay is not difficult for it occurs plentifully, but NOT after spring tides.

My method was to fill tobacco bags with shale which appeared promising. When this was dry I placed about a table spoon full in an old saucer.

By rotating and gently shaking the saucer, I found that all small shells came to the top of the "mixture", when they were easily picked out by moistening the tip of a finger, and placed in a match box for later sorting.

A hand lens of low power assists, and I found that the work was better done in day time rather than under artificial light.

Naturally it requires time and patience, but the resulting acquirement of many perfect tiny shells is sufficient reward.

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HALIOTIS PARVUS by P.J. le Roux

For years I have searched a large number of localities and especially those where dead shells of that elusive *Haliotis parvus* are washed up, for live specimens of the shell. During these years, I do not remember finding more than about nine living specimens. On the 14th December, 1960, I had to a few Hottentot fish (*Pachumetopon blochii*) caught in about 10 fathoms off the Kleinmondstrand coast, approx. half a mile from shore. To my surprise I found 30 perfect specimens of *Haliotis parvus* in the stomach of one of these fishes. Only the largest of the eight cleaned had been feeding on *Haliotis*. This particular fish was about 12 inches long, and the size of the shells varied from 28 m.m. to 8 m.m.

The shells were all complete with flesh, some slightly decomposed, so it was clear that this particular fish had had a proper *Haliotis* meal at a not too distant date. As all the shells were in perfect condition, it is likely that the inedible matter is rejected, presumably via the vent, after the flesh is digested. The rejected shells eventually wash up on our beaches.

I am now examining all the Hottentot fish I can lay my hands on, and have found another specimen with 18 *parvus*. Others had small and microscopic shells, complete with operculum, in their stomachs. These swallowed shells are presumably retained in the stomach until they putrefy.

Although juvenile *Haliotis midae* are very common on our coast, I have up to the present not found a single one in the stomach of a fish.

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