

find complete sterility between relations in those species only which like *Abutilon* are infertile with pollen of the same stock. . . . .

Darwin, with his accustomed keenness of vision, has expressed\* the conjecture that this diminution of fertility, observed so many times, is not a consequence of their hybrid nature, but of too close breeding in-and-in, and I am glad to be able to offer, in the examples of diminished fertility and complete sterility as a consequence of too close breeding in-and-in, in *Abutilon*-hybrids, herewith communicated, a new proof of the accuracy of Darwin's hypothesis. — *From the German of Fitz Müller, Itajhy, Oct., 1872.* G. L. G.

THE FERTILIZATION OF GENTIANA BY HUMBLE BEES. † — The fringed gentian (*Gentiana crinita*) resembles the above in having erect flowers and the stamens below the stigmas. The fringed lobes of the corolla spread at right angles. Humble bees work upon this very much as they do upon Andrews' gentian.

There seems to be almost no end to the various contrivances by which flowers are fertilized by insects. Flowers closely allied, of the same genus, are fertilized in different ways, so it is not safe to make general rules. We may think that insects will act in a certain way, according to our notion, but after carefully watching them, we shall often see that they are not doing as we supposed they would. We need many patient observers for many years yet, to repeat observations made on this subject and to make new ones; we want to know how our insects behave upon every species of flower from the time they first visit it, to the time it affords no nectar to attract them. — W. G. BEAL, *State Agricultural College, Lansing, Michigan, Nov. 8, 1873.*

## ZOOLOGY.

GIGANTIC CUTTLE-FISHES OF NEWFOUNDLAND. — It seems, as will be seen by the following correspondence, that we were incorrect in saying that the first letter of Mr. Murray on this subject was addressed to the late Prof. Agassiz (p. 120). It was in fact written to Prof. Marcou. We make reparation for the inadvertency by publishing the following letters from Prof. Agassiz, of which copies have been furnished us by Prof. Marcou. They are

\* Orig. Sp., 4th ed., 295.

† By an oversight omitted from the note on p. 180.