River.* Mr. Heckel† had placed it in his genus Trachidermis, where I do not believe that it can remain, notwithstanding its rough skin and its teeth on the palatine bones. Dr. Richardson has felt the necessity of withdrawing it from the genus Cottus. In the "Fauna Boreali Americana," he thought the genus Hemilepidotus might perhaps receive it, but he himself has acknowledged since, that its place was not there, and when establishing the genus Centrodermichthys,‡ for some species of the China seas, he proposed to associate with them the *C. asper*. Not having at my disposal sufficient materials to satisfy myself upon this subject I shall reconsider it in a monograph of the species of Cottus of North America, which I am now engaged in preparing.

Dr. Gould presented, in the name of Capt. Joseph P. Couthouy, a specimen of Volcanic Ammonia, brought home from the United States Exploring Expedition.

Rajinder Datt of Calcutta was chosen a Corresponding member of the Society.

November 7, 1849.

The President in the Chair.

Present, twenty-nine members.

Present, by invitation, M. H. Perley, Esq. of New Brunswick.

Prof. Agassiz said that he had been for some time engaged in the study of the Worms of the coast of Massachusetts, and he had obtained some very interesting results.

He had found that in many of the Annelids which, at an early stage of their development are furnished with a pair of eyes to each ring, these organs gradually disappear, so that at maturity

* Faun. Bor. Amer. III. 1836, p. 295, Pl. 95, fig. 1.
† Ann. d. Wien. Mus. II. 1837, p. 162.
‡ Ichthyology of the "Sulphur."

they are either eyeless or there remain but one pair in some species, in others a few, on some of the joints.

Terebella fulgida, of which Prof. Agassiz exhibited a drawing, had been supposed heretofore to be eyeless. He had recently obtained specimens at various stages of growth with eyes, the number diminishing as the animal approached maturity. Cirratulus, of which he exhibited a figure, he had found to be an immature Terebella. The branchial appendages characterizing it disappear with its development. He had thus been led to the conclusion, at variance with the commonly received opinion, that the *abranchiate* Annelids are the highest type of that class. Hæmatorhœa, of which Prof. Agassiz exhibited a drawing, has very long tentacles, and is filled with blood free in the cavity of the body. It has no blood vessels. The blood is made to accumulate at different points, sometimes bulging out the body at one place, sometimes at another, or distending the tentacles; thus giving a variety of shapes to the animal. This species, which is quite abundant under the stones on the Beach at East Boston, is highly phosphorescent, emitting brilliant sparks when irritated. Its power becomes exhausted, but is renewed when the animal has remained quiet a sufficient length of time.

Prof. Agassiz also exhibited drawings of four new species of Doris, to which he had given the names *diadematа*, *coronata*, *tenella*, and *pallida;* also of Placobranchus, and a new species of Canthopsis, for which he proposes the name *C. Harvardiensis;* also of Actæon, a genus never before obtained in America, and which he had found in great numbers in Charles River and the creeks about Cambridge. This animal is of a bright green color, owing to the presence of Chlorophyl, which is soluble in Ether like the Chlorophyl in plants. Prof. Agassiz stated that he had, during the past summer, obtained by dredging off Gay Head, *Melibœa arbuscula;* a new species to naturalists on this side of the Atlantic, characterized by tentacles like those of Doris, and gills like those of Annelids.

In reply to a question, Prof. Agassiz said that the permanent eyes of the Annelids were furnished with transparent media; those that disappear are merely pigment spots.