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MUSICAL SOUNDS CAUSED BY *ACHATINELLÆ*.

By REV. H. GLANVILLE BARNACLE, M.A.

When serving as astronomer on the Government Expedition to the Sandwich Islands to observe the Transit of Venus in 1874, I took the opportunity of hunting over the Islands for the *Achatinellæ*, so perhaps the following may be of interest to you concerning those beautiful shells. When up the mountains of Oahu I heard the grandest but wildest music, as if from hundreds of Æolian harps, wafted to me on the breezes, and my companion (a native) told me it came from, as he called them, the singing shells. It was sublime. I could not believe it, but a tree close at hand proved it. On it were many of the shells, the animals drawing after them their shells which grated against the wood and so caused a sound; the multitude of sounds produced the fanciful music. I can hear it now as I write, so great an impression did it make on me. On this one tree I took seventy shells of all varieties. At the root in the grass, I took twenty-three more, and everywhere I took some. The British Museum now has eleven sinistral varieties from me that they had not before, but it seemed a shame to rob nature of its notes. It may be of interest to name that wherever I found the *Achatinellæ*, close at hand were always to be found *Helix similis*, and varieties of *Amastra*.—Sep. 3, 1883.

*Helix virgata* v. *major* at Eastbourne.—Through the kindness of Mr. S. Spencer Pearce, B.A., I have been favoured with specimens of this variety of a much larger size than I have yet seen recorded. The largest specimen is fully 25 mill. or 1 inch in diameter, and was collected by him 'in cultivated fields at Eastbourne.' These shells are fully one-fifth larger than those recorded by Dr. Jeffreys from Weymouth, which were the finest specimens he had ever seen. The extreme limits of size given by Dr. Gray, Moquin-Tandon, Tate, &c., do not exceed the measurements given by Dr. Jeffreys.—J. W. TAYLOR, Aug. 14th, 1883.