FISH.

MELANIC SPECIMENS OF THE PUTIA (*Barbus ticto*).—The Putia is a small Cyprinine fish very common in ponds throughout India. The normal coloration is given by Day (*Faun. Ind., Fishes*, i, p. 325) as "silvery, sometimes stained with red, a black spot on the side of the tail before the base of the caudal fin and immediately behind the anal; a smaller one (frequently absent) at the commencement of the lateral line. Fins often black, sometimes orange." A number of specimens recently obtained from a tank at Rampur Bhoolia in the Rajshahi district of Eastern Bengal, show a varying tendency towards melanism. In some individuals this is barely perceptible, but in some the edges of the lateral and the whole of the ventral scales, the dorsal surface of the head and the fins (especially the pelvic, anal and dorsal) are more or less densely suffused with black. This is less noticeable in the region between the anal fin and the caudal spot, which is faintly ringed both in these and in normal specimens with cream-colour. The region below the caudal spot can be seen to be slightly paler than the rest of the body even in normal individuals, if they are examined alive; but its paleness is more striking in melanic examples. In none of those from Rajshahi can the anterior spot be distinguished; the fins of the paler individuals are almost colourless.

Day gives the number of horny rays in the dorsal fin as 8; it is just as frequently 7.

N. ANNANDALE.

CRUSTACEA.

TWO BARNACLES NEW TO INDIAN SEAS.—The following Cirripedes do not appear to have been recorded hitherto from the seas of India :—

Pœcilasma gracile, Hoek.

Several specimens from the spines of an Irregular Echinoid dredged by the Indian Marine Survey off the extreme south of India (Lat. 8° 37′ N., Long. 75° 37′ 30″ E.) from a depth of between 224 and 283 fathoms. The species was originally obtained by the 'Challenger' off Australia from a depth of 410 fathoms.

Pœcilasma eburneum, Hinds.

Several specimens from the spines of an Echinoid of the family Cidaridæ, dredged by the Indian Marine Survey in the Persian Gulf from a depth of between 48 and 49 fathoms. The species was described from New Guinea. The specimens here recorded, as well as those of *P. gracile*, were attached to the spines surrounding the mouth of the Echinoid on which they occurred.

N. ANNANDALE.

INSECTS.

MOSQUITOES OF THE GENUS ANOPHELES FROM PORT CANNING, LOWER BENGAL.—At Port Canning, on account of the presence of

many small accumulations of water in pools and ditches, the houses are infested with *Anopheles*: so much so that in December last I collected no less than 250 specimens within three hours in the rest-house alone. These specimens belonged to the following species :—

A. nigerrimus (the most abundant), *A. barbirostris*, *A. rossi*, *A. jamesi*, and a species which is probably new. The last may be described as follows :—

A small mosquito about the size of *A. jamesi*. *Palpi* with five nearly equal white bands ; the terminal band white, all distinct. *Proboscis* whitish, with a dark band near the middle. *Legs*—The femora and tibiæ of all the legs striped alternately with white and dark bands ; all the joints capped with white ; the remaining part of the legs, including the tarsi, dark. *Wings*—The costal vein with three large, dark bands and four small ones ; the first longitudinal vein with three large bands and two small ones ; the second with one band on the main trunk and two on the branches ; the third with three bands ; the fourth with four bands on the main trunk, three on the anterior and two on the posterior branch ; the sixth with three bands.

This species does not agree with any of the fifteen described in James and Liston's *Monograph of the Anopheles Mosquitoes of India*, being distinguished by the peculiar markings on the palpi, wings and legs. From the descriptions and figures in Theobald's *Monograph of the Culicidæ of the World*, so far as I can make them out, it seems very much like *A. punctulatus*, Dönitz, from the Malay Peninsula, but I cannot be sure of the identity.

G. C. CHATTERJEE.

ANOPHELES LARVÆ IN BRACKISH WATER.—James and Liston do not mention the occurrence of *Anopheles* larvæ in salt water in India, and recently several observers have suggested as a means of destruction of these larvæ that sea water might be admitted into pools containing them. But Mosquito larvæ have been found, though rarely, inhabiting salt water ; for example, Theobald (*Mon. Cul.*, i, p. 36) mentions that Dr. Bancroft found larvæ of *Culex marinus* in salt-water marshes in Australia. The brackish tanks at Port Canning, which also contain marine animals such as Medusæ and sea anemones, are full of *Anopheles* larvæ, which are found amongst filamentous algæ. On examination specimens proved, without exception, to be larvæ of *Anopheles rossi*. They were very abundant at the beginning of December, the water then containing 0·22 per cent. of soluble matter, but were much less so at the end of the same month. I noticed that when these larvæ were transferred to fresh water, they at once sank and crawled about the bottom of the vessel for some time. Then, by a series of muscular movements, they came to the surface. There was always a tendency for them to sink again ; whereas individuals from fresh water rise to the surface by their own buoyancy, not by muscular action, and do not remain at the bottom long if they sink. I