

## ON THE VARIATION OF THE LIZARD

(LACERTA VIVIPARA).

BY R. F. SCHARFF, B.SC.

In my report on the Reptiles and Amphibians of the Clare Island Survey,<sup>1</sup> I expressed the opinion that Lizards from Ireland showed no characters by means of which they might be distinguished from British or Continental specimens of the same species. This is rather remarkable considering that this animal offers so much scope for variation and that it occurs under such extreme diversities of soil and climate.

The same subject has recently been reinvestigated by Dr. Boulenger,<sup>2</sup> who had at his disposal in the British Museum a very much larger series of specimens than I had. There were altogether 150 specimens from various parts of Europe and Asia. He compared minutely the shape of the body, the scales, the colour and size of the specimens, and as the result of these researches declares his inability to distinguish any varieties or geographical races. It is one of the most remarkable instances of a persistent type of animal. Specimens of this Lizard from Clare Island in the west are indistinguishable from those occurring in the Island of Sachalien in the Pacific, or from those found on the Amoor in Northern Asia, Lapland, Bulgaria, Italy, the Alps or Pyrenees.

National Museum, Dublin.

## IRISH SOCIETIES.

## ROYAL ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

Recent gifts include a Patas Monkey from Mr. T. S. Russell, a Fox from Miss Joye Stronge, a Badger from Mr. G. Moore, a Hedgehog and a Jay from Mr. W. W. Despard, a Swan from Mr. F. Power, a pair of Doves from Miss Vernon, and a pair of Amherst Pheasants from Mrs. W. Bailey. A Drill has been deposited in the Monkey House.

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. R. Irish Acad.*, vol. xxxi., 1912, part 18.

<sup>2</sup> *Journal of Zool. Research*, vol. i., 1917, pp. 1-16.