

MORTALITY IN MUSSELS AT ORANGE, VA.

BY W. J. FARRER, ORANGE, VA.

Referring to Mr. Strode's paper in the December number of the NAUTILUS, I, too, have been lately much puzzled at finding dead mussels in large quantities in the ponds about this place; hundreds may be picked up each morning on the edges of one pond, especially that belonging to a grist mill. *U. hyalinus* and *A. williamsii* seem to be the principal sufferers, for although *A. edentata*, *M. undulata* and *U. complanatus* abound in the same pond, only a few empty shells of these latter are found and they seem to have been cleaned, out by raccoons; the other two species are always found with the animal entire and for the most part full of spawn. This, as well as the other ponds about, has been unusually low throughout the last two months and with Mr. Strode I think low water and not catfish, accounts for the bivalve mortality.

I may mention that in the same pond large numbers of catfish have died throughout the summer and autumn; some I took in a dying state had a growth of fungus on the body.

LITTORAL LAND SHELLS OF NEW JERSEY.

BY H. A. PILSBRY

The Atlantic shore of New Jersey is so sandy that few land snails find suitable conditions there. I have seen specimens of only the following species from the immediate neighborhood of the coast, restricting this to a strip of say one or two miles inland.

Helix (Mesodon) thyroides Say.

All the eastern New Jersey specimens are thin and light, resembling the *bucculenta* form more than the typical *thyroides*.

Those from Asbury Park are toothless, have the umbilicus half covered, and measure from 17 to 19 mm. diameter.

Specimens from Point Pleasant, N. J., collected by Messrs. F. H. Brown and Witmer Stone are even smaller than those collected by myself at Asbury Park. Compared with the typical *thyroides* these specimens are much smaller, generally more globose and conoidal,