CTENOSTREON PECTINIFORMIS, SCHLOTHEIM, AN AUSTRALIAN FOSSIL.

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(Plate iii.)

IN 1870, the late Mr. Charles Moore, of Bath, England, recorded[1] as a West Australian Oolitic species, *Lima proboscidea*, Sby., but he neither described nor figured the shell. Less than three years previously, the late Rev. W. B. Clarke did the same from information supplied him by Mr. Moore.[2] As it is important that all species common to the stratified deposits of this Continent and other parts of the world should be accurately figured, quite as much as those purely endemic, for the information of Australian students of Geology, I take the opportunity in the present instance of effecting this through examples of this shell having passed into the possession of the Trustees.

The species was known to the older writers under two names—*Lima pectiniformis*, described by Von Schlotheim in 1820, and *Lima proboscidea*, by J. Sowerby in 1821, the latter therefore becomes a synonym of the former.[3] It also forms the second described species of Eichwald's genus *Ctenostreon*.[4]

Eichwald very carefully and lucidly explains that *Ctenostreon* unites the characters of the genera *Ostrea*, *Pecten*, *Lima*, and *Spondylus*. The more or less inflated shell is lamellar, as in *Ostrea* and *Lima*, more or less irregular in growth as in both the genera just mentioned, but the costæ are more uniform than those of the Oyster. The valves are nearly equal, as in *Lima*, with large auricles as in *Pecten*, and the costæ are furnished with fistulose spines similar to those of *Spondylus*. The shell was not self-attached as in *Ostrea*, but like that of *Pecten* fixed by a byssus.

The principal synonomy of the species is as follows :—

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1 Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., xxvi., 1870, pp. 231 and 232.

2 Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc., xxiii., 1867, p. 8.

3 Bronn—Index Pal., Nomen., 1848, p. 647.

4 Eichwald—Lethæa Rossica, ii., 1868, p. 455.