

Board of Governors for the ensuing year, in accordance with clause 7 of the New Zealand Institute Act.

Presentation of books from Harvard College, U.S.A., the Smithsonian Institution, U.S.A., the Flax Commissioners, and Mr. Crompton, were placed on the table.

1. The President read the following extract from a letter addressed to Dr. Hector by Professor Agassiz, which accompanied the presentations from Harvard College.

"I have just received the diploma of membership of the New Zealand Institute, which you have forwarded to me. Please present my thanks to your learned Society for this distinction. I have been more delighted in receiving it than I can express. Certainly, when remembering the recent date of the colonization of New Zealand, there can be no more surprising evidence of the rapid progress of modern civilization than the publication of the *Transactions* of your Institute. Not that the printing of a book in any part of the world is now-a-days any marked event, but the volume before me is more instructive, and better put together, than the proceedings of most learned societies of a long standing. I have requested my friend, Mr. T. G. Cary, who takes care of the affairs of the Museum of Comparative Zoology in Cambridge, to forward to you a series of the publications of our Institution; and I would now take the liberty of requesting you to send me also the first and second volumes of your *Transactions and Proceedings*. With our volumes you will also receive a set for each of your associated societies, which I beg you to forward. Allow me also to request you to send me whatever specimens of living and fossil animals you can spare, and to let me know what I could send you in return. I have a series of casts of Mastodon heads, of different ages, which might be interesting, and can offer any of the natural productions of North America you may wish, or at least procure them shortly if they are not at hand. It is my earnest desire to secure for our Museum as complete a representation of the living and extinct fauna of New Zealand as possible, before the progress of your settlement has made it impossible to bring together complete collections of the original fauna of your islands. I would particularly value specimens of all the species described in your *Proceedings*. I need scarcely add that specimens of the fishes described and figured by you would have a special interest for me. I shall direct my assistants in the different departments of the Museum to write to members of your Institute who work in the same field, and beg you may secure for them a friendly response."

2. "Notes on the Practice of Out-door Photography," by W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 160.)

3. "On the Alkalinity or Acidity of certain Salts and Minerals, as indi-

cated by their Reaction with Test Paper," by W. Skey, Analyst to the Geological Survey of New Zealand. (See *Transactions*, p. 325.)

4. "Observations on an Albino Eel," by F. J. Knox, L.R.C.S.E.

(ABSTRACT.)

The stream which passes my residence at Johnsonville abounds with eels, and, so far as I can observe, to the exclusion of any other fish. The *Gallaxias*, for instance, whilst it is numerous in the Tukapuha, which empties its waters into Porirua Harbour, is not found in the Ngahauranga, although the latter stream arises in the same group of hills, and is derived from the same locality.

The Albino specimen, of which I place the skin and skeleton before the Society, was observed, day after day, moving about towards dusk in search of food. It resembled a portion of soiled calico, and had a rather repulsive aspect, more especially as the eyes were distinctly visible, being of a peculiar dead hue, and readily distinguished by their circular form. The specimen was ultimately brought to me by a keen and successful eel-catcher, who, although he had captured thousands, had never seen one of this description before. He appeared to consider it diseased, otherwise I would not have had the pleasure of bringing it under the notice of the Society.

I have added my usual table of measurements, together with the dissection. Its weight (recent) was 10 ounces.

Measurements.

	Inches.
Snout to tip of tail	20·5
" nostrils	·1
" centre of eye	·6
" angle of eye	·7
" gill aperture	3·0
" pectoral fins	3·1
" cloaca	9·0
" dorsal fin	6·5
" anal fin	9·1

Lateral line well marked; mucous apertures divided by 0·2 inch, secreting abundance of mucous. The abdominal viscera appeared perfectly healthy. I examined the entire intestinal tube with great care, and observed no parasites.

5. Dr. Hector read a letter from Dr. Thomson, of Clyde, giving the account of his exploration of the cave in which the Moa's neck was found some months ago.* It is an irregular fissure in mica schist rock, about 50 feet in depth, with three shelf-like ledges or floors, on which the bones have lodged. There are two entrances—one on the hill side, and another by a funnel-shaped depres-

* Incorporated with Art. IV. *Trans.*, p. 111.