

NINTH MEETING. 25th September, 1872.

Dr. Hector, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

1. "Notes on Miramar Peninsula, Wellington Harbour," by J. C. Crawford, F.G.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 396.)

The author exhibited bones of various species of the Moa which have been found on the peninsula, and had been presented by him to the Colonial Museum.

The President said that the remains were as follows:—

(1.) *Human*.—Skull, pelvis, extremities, Lyall Bay; thigh bone, Evans Bay; thigh bones, etc., Ludlam Gully.

(2.) *Dinornis*, sp. *Moas*.—Femur (collected by Dr. Hector), Lyall Bay; sacrum and bones of extremities of small-sized species (femur, 6 inches), Ludlam Gully; tibia and other fragments of middle size—had been split and cooked (?), Evans Bay; femur and other fragments of middle size much incrustated with swamp deposit, Burnham Water, swamp; fragments of large size, sand deposit round Burnham Water.

(3.) *Cetacean* bones, Burnham Water.

(4.) Footbones of a *Calf*, Lyall Bay.

2. "On the Effect of Wind-driven Sand as a Cutting Agent," by Edwin Stowe, B.A. (See *Transactions*, p. 105.)

This paper was illustrated by specimens collected at Waikato Heads, and excited some discussion.

3. "Notes on the Anatomy of the Huia," by F. J. Knox, L.R.C.S.E.

These notes were descriptive of beautifully prepared skeletons of both male and female of these rare and interesting birds.

The President pointed out that the great difference in the length of the beaks in the male and female huia is due only to the prolongation of the horny mandible of the latter, the jaw bones being the same size in both sexes. This is not the case in the kiwi, in which the apparent excess in the length of the beak in the female is really produced by the lengthened bones of the face. Anatomically the kiwi has the shortest beak of any known bird of its size. The strong muscular crests in the skull of the male huia at once distinguishes it from that of the female, and supports the view that the male beak is used as an adze, and the female as a probe.

Capt. Hutton remarked that a recent paper read to the Zoological Society of London described the anatomy of the huia, and showed that it is allied to the starling and crow in its structure.

4. "On the Reclamation of Land devastated by the Encroachment of Sand," by C. D. Whitcombe. (See *Transactions*, p. 108.)

Mr. Travers gave an account of how the reclamation of land is effected near Bordeaux.

Mr. J. D. Enys pointed out that there was a dwarf gum tree in Tasmania that might be useful for this purpose.

The President said it was not merely the question of reclaiming land but also the protection of good land, and often of important works, mentioning the Cape Farewell lighthouse as an instance where protection against the drifting of the sand is an important consideration.

Mr. Travers exhibited a variety of the blue penguin (*Eudyptula minor*) recently captured at Evans Bay.

Mr. J. D. Enys exhibited the jaw of a tuatara, which he had found near Lyall Bay, and the skull of an ancient Maori dog which he had found in the cooking ovens at Paikakariki along with the bones of moas and men.

TENTH MEETING. 2nd October, 1872.

Dr. Hector, F.R.S., President, in the chair.

1. "On the Life and Times of Te Rauparaha," Chapter IV., by W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 51.)

Embracing the period from 1770 to 1817, and bringing down the account of that eventful period to the first conquest of the native tribes and the migration of the chief from Kawhia to Wanganui.

The President said in reference to a remark relative to Kawhia harbour that he had been there on board H.M.S. "Eclipse," and that he thought it would yet be a most important settlement.

2. "On the New Zealand Sertularians," by Capt. F. W. Hutton, C.M.Z.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 256.)

The author enumerated thirteen species, twelve of which he had found in Lyall Bay, eight of these being new to the New Zealand fauna, and five new to science.

The President gave a short account of the Turner reef, which had been discovered near Jackson harbour, on the south side of Cook Strait. The reef had been traced on the surface for about 1000 feet, crossing the promontory between Queen Charlotte Sound and Point Gore, and yields on an average, by several analyses, half an ounce to the ton. Some specimens are, however, very rich. The rock is a foliated schist, and quite different from the rock in which the gold is found on Baker's Hill and Terawiti, which has more resemblance to the bed rock at the Inangahua reefs.*

* See Geological Reports, 1872, p. 125.