

THIRD MEETING. 22nd July, 1872.

The Hon. T. M. Hautain in the chair.

New members.—D. E. Macdonald, W. H. Floyd, H. P. Higginson, C.E.

The monthly list of donations to the Library and Museum was read by the Secretary. It included a copy of Loudon's "Arboretum Britannicum," eight volumes, from the Hon. Col. Hautain.

1. Referring to the occurrence of the sprat and anchovy at the Thames, as reported at the last meeting, Mr. G. Thorne, jun., stated that in 1867 a small herring had appeared at Melbourne in such abundant shoals that the water looked quite black at a short distance. It had not been seen in that locality since that date. He inferred from this that it was possible that the sprat and anchovy were not regular visitors to the Ourakei Gulf.

Mr. Kirk remarked that these fish had been observed at various parts of the coast of both islands, and he was inclined to regard them as periodical visitors which, until recently, had escaped notice.

2. "Notes on the Flora of the Lake District of the North Island," by T. Kirk, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 322.)

This was the concluding portion of the paper begun at the last meeting.

FOURTH MEETING. 19th August, 1872.

T. Heale, President, in the chair.

New member.—Dr. Spencer.

A list of donations to the Library and Museum was read.

A collection of gems and precious stones, also several rare minerals, recently added to the Museum, were laid on the table.

1. "On the Flight of the Black-backed Gull (*Larus dominicanus*)," by Capt. F. W. Hutton, C.M.Z.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 140.)

2. "On the Occurrence of the Clover Dodder (*Cuscuta trifolii*) in the Waikato District," by Major W. G. Mair.

The existence of this vile parasitical plant in Waikato is a matter of serious import to agriculturists. As far as I can ascertain, it was first noticed in 1869. It is to be met with now on most of the farms about Ohaupo and Pukerimu. In some places it was first observed springing from horse droppings, and for this reason it is supposed by the settlers to have been introduced in horsefeed. It is unfortunate that its appearance was not remarked upon

earlier, for at this date it would be less easy to trace its origin. It shows itself early in the spring, and spreads outwards like a ringworm all through the summer till the beginning of autumn, when it disappears, leaving a circular patch; some of these patches have been seen fifty yards in diameter. In some instances, more especially in light good soils, as the circle extends the pasture springs up behind it, but upon heavy land the patch is usually quite denuded of vegetation. I have only seen it on red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and cow-grass (*T. medium*) growing with such vigour that the unfortunate plant is quite hidden by the parasite. If taken in time its ravages may be checked by paring clean and burning, but if neglected during the first weeks of spring nothing short of turning up the whole field will destroy it. I am indebted to Captain Rich of Fernside (where I first saw the *Cuscuta* growing) for information touching its habits.

3. "Notes on the Naturalized Plants of the Chatham Islands," by T. Kirk, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 320.)

This comprised a catalogue of the introduced plants observed in a naturalized condition by Mr. H. H. Travers during his exploration of the islands.

4. "On Compound Engines," by W. Lodder. (See *Transactions*, p. 144.)

FIFTH MEETING. 23rd September, 1872.

T. Heale, President, in the chair.

New members.—J. Henderson, J. Lackland, J. Lamb, J. M. Fraser, J. Webster.

The monthly list of donations to the Library and Museum was read by the Secretary.

1. "On the Rate of Growth of Native Trees under Cultivation," by J. Baber, C.E.

(ABSTRACT.)

In comparison with European and Australian trees, those of the North Island are slow in growth.

Trees of the following kinds were planted by me in 1851-52 at Remuera, at an elevation above the sea of 210 feet, on a clay soil (Waitemata series); the height these have attained during twenty years is given in the following table:—

				Ft.	In.
Ti (<i>Cordyline australis</i>)	...	...	...	24	0
Puriri (<i>Vitex littoralis</i>)	...	...	...	20	0
Mapau or Tipau, black var. (<i>Myrsine australis</i>)	...	...	...	17	0