

Dr. Hector explained that the President's paper was written at his request, as a supplement to his own paper, read at a former meeting, on the Saurian remains lately discovered in the South Island. He had just received a letter from Professor Owen, who anticipated that these discoveries would be most important, as they will probably supply some missing links in the connection between the fossil Saurians found in various parts of the world.

4. "Notes on the Flora of the Province of Wellington; with a List of Plants collected therein," by John Buchanan, of the Geological Survey of New Zealand. (*Transactions*, p. 210.)

5. Dr. Hector read the following extract from a letter received from Baron von Mueller, relative to a plant from the Chatham Islands, described in "Fragmenta Phytographiæ Australiæ," LXII., p. 79, as *Lepyrodia traversii*, which further specimens have proved to be a new genus—

"Among the Restiaceæ last sent by Mr. Buchanan is a female specimen of the tall species peculiar to the Chatham Islands. Unexpectedly it shows this plant to belong to the nucular, not the capsular, series of the genera, among which its dispersion of flowers places it separate from any, except the South African genus *Elegia*; but, as it differs in various respects from all the specimens of that genus, and as we have no *Elegias* out of Africa, I have deemed it best to form a separate genus for the Chatham Island plant, and have named this new genus *Sporadanthus*. It holds precisely the same relation to *Leptocarpus* as *Lepyrodia* to *Restio*. Perhaps you will kindly insert a brief note to this effect in your next volume."

The annual general meeting, which could not be held owing to the required number of members not being present, was adjourned till Monday, 26th January.

SEVENTH ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 26th January, 1874.

Charles Knight, F.R.C.S., President, in the chair.

About thirty members were present.

ABSTRACT REPORT OF COUNCIL.

During the session of the Society for 1873 seven general meetings were held, which were usually fully attended. At these meetings thirty-two different communications were read, which is short of the number in previous years, but they were chiefly of considerable importance, and gave rise to interesting discussions, so that the real amount of work done by the members of the Society is not below the average.

Nineteen new members have been added to the Society since the last annual

meeting, making a total of 149 members. The periodicals mentioned in last report are still taken in, and the following have been since subscribed for, viz.:—Annals of Natural History, Proceedings of Microscopical Science, and Philosophical Magazine.

The following works have been presented to the Library:—Thirty-five vols. of Dietrichsen and Hannay's Almanack, from 1838 to 1871, by Captain Edwin; thirteen vols. on various subjects, by Mr. W. Lyon; a complete set of the publications connected with the "Novara" Expedition, through Dr. Hochstetter; and a copy of Dr. Buller's "Birds of New Zealand," from the Colonial Secretary.

From the annual statement of accounts it appeared that the balance brought forward from last year was £95 10s. 8d. The subscriptions received amounted to £146 18s., and one life subscriber had paid £10. The largest items of expenditure were Gray's "Genera of Birds," one vol., £25 5s. 2d.; Bouchard, second payment for insects, £25 8s. 11d.; contribution to New Zealand Institute, £24 9s. 8d. The balance in hand was £107 14s. 8d.

Mr. W. T. L. Travers drew attention to the insects which had been purchased by the Society from Mr. Bouchard. When they arrived they were in very bad condition, but through the exertions of Mr. Gore they were now in a state fit for inspection, and formed a creditable collection.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1874.—*President*—Charles Knight, F.R.C.S., F.L.S.; *Vice-Presidents*—J. C. Crawford, F.G.S.; W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S.; *Council*—Dr. Hector, F.R.S., H. F. Logan, W. S. Hamilton, J. R. George, C. C. Graham, Commander R. A. Edwin, R.N., J. Blackett, C.E.; *Auditor*—Arthur Baker; *Secretary and Treasurer*—Richard B. Gore.

1. "On a New Species of *Rubus*," by John Buchanan, of the Geological Survey of New Zealand. (*Transactions*, p. 243.)

2. "On the Durability of New Zealand Timber, with Suggestions for its Preservation," * by John Buchanan.

(ABSTRACT.)

The author remarked that in every locality some particular timber was specially lauded above every other, but that such opinion was seldom based on a general knowledge of our timbers. The very best kind may be rendered quite useless by cutting badly-selected trees at wrong seasons, and by want of proper treatment afterwards. Trees of less diameter than 18 inches contain a large amount of sap, and, consequently, are not durable. The proper time to cut them is in winter, when the sap does not circulate. But the winter in New Zealand is so short and uncertain that a sufficient supply of timber could not

* Printed in the "Wellington Independent" of 29th January.