

our social convulsions. Assuredly, I am one of those who desire, I will not say with sincerity, for the word is too feeble, but who desire with inexpressible ardour, and by all means possible, to ameliorate the lot of all who suffer; but the first of all amelioration is to give them hope. How greatly lessened are our finite sufferings when there shines into the midst of them an infinite hope! The duty of us all, whoever we may be, legislators and bishops, priests, authors, and journalists, is to spread abroad, to dispense and to lavish in every form the social energy necessary to combat poverty and suffering, and at the same time to bid every face to be lifted up to Heaven, to direct every soul and mind to a future life, where justice shall be executed. We must declare with a loud voice that none shall have suffered uselessly, and that justice shall be rendered to all. Death itself shall be restitution. As the law of the material universe is equilibrium, so the law of the moral universe is equity. God will be found at the end of all."

1. "Notes on a Disease among Sheep in the Waikato District," by Major W. G. Mair.

In mid-summer, 1877-8, sheep in Upper Waikato were affected by a disease hitherto unknown to sheep-breeders in the district. The symptoms were described as being not unlike those caused by eating ergotized grass, viz., throwing up the head, jerking it suddenly to one side, then staggering back and falling. These symptoms suggested an affection of the brain, and upon some of the sheep being killed for examination, one or more maggots were, in every instance, found apparently eating through the substance of the brain; in some cases smaller maggots were found in the nasal passages, indicating that it was by the nostril that the parasite found its way into the sheep's head! In one instance, an unusually large maggot was found under the base of the tongue. I could not ascertain whether any sheep had died from this disease, and many well-conditioned animals were found, upon being slaughtered, to be infested by these parasites. The maggots are in some instances fully three-quarters of an inch in length by half an inch in breadth; the colour is a dirty white, with two triangular black spots at the nether extremity.

When placed upon a smooth surface they travel with a brisk undulating motion like that of the caterpillar, and they are very retentive of life, being quite lively after three days' imprisonment in a match-box. I have no idea what the perfect insect may be like, but there was a fly common about sheep yards at the time when these observations were made, and as it appears to be new, it is possible that it may be the one which deposits the maggots, either in the sheeps' nostrils, or in their food.

I am indebted to Messrs. Kirk and Connell, of the Armed Constabulary, for the greater part of my information.

Several members pointed out that the disease described by the author was due to the *Æstrus*, or Gad-fly, which appears to be increasing in numbers in New Zealand.

2. "On the Occurrence of the Genus *Sporadanthus* in New Zealand," by T. F. Cheesman, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 324.)

3. "On the Habits of *Prionoplus reticularis*, with Diagnoses of the Larva and Pupa," by Capt. T. Broun. (*Transactions*, p. 284.)

Mr. Cheeseman exhibited, on behalf of Capt. Broun, specimens of the larva and pupa of *Prionoplus*, and pieces of timber perforated by the larva.

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SECOND MEETING. 30th June, 1879

Dr. Purchas, President, in the chair.

*New Members.*—T. W. Gudgeon, C. H. Haines, M.D., F.R.G.S., C. T. Hetley, J. McElwaine, John Reid, J. H. Upton, E. S. Wilcocks.

1. "Notes on the Growth of certain Trees on Scoria Soil near Mount Eden, Auckland," by Mr. Justice Gillies. (*Transactions*, p. 357.)

2. "On the Botany of the Pirongia Mountain," by T. F. Cheeseman, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 317.)

3. "On the Mound-builders of North America," by J. Adams, B.A.

This paper was illustrated by a collection of crania, pottery, stone adzes, arrow-heads, etc., taken from mounds in Illinois, and presented to the Museum by Mr. H. N. Rust, of Chicago.

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THIRD MEETING. 27th July, 1879.

Dr. Purchas, President, in the chair.

*New Members.*—J. Alexander, E. Burgess, C. La Roche.

1. The Secretary read a letter from Mr. W. Atkins in reference to the growth of trees in clay soils near Auckland. He pointed out that many of the Coniferæ enumerated by Mr. Justice Gillies in his recent paper on the growth of trees on volcanic soils, do equally well on stiff clay soils, provided that care is taken to prevent water stagnating about the roots while the trees are young. Mr. Atkin also alluded to the death of many trees near Auckland from the supposed attacks of a fungus on the roots, as a subject worthy of enquiry.

2. "The possible Pacification of the World by means of a rational International Policy," by the Rev. S. Edgar.

3. "The Distress in England; its Causes and Remedies," by J. C. Firth.

4. Dr. Purchas exhibited a number of trenails taken from the schooner "Kenilworth," now being repaired at Auckland. The greater number of the trenails in the vessel were eaten in a spiral manner on the outside by the larva of some beetle, so that many were quite loose in the planking. None of the Auckland ship-builders were acquainted with a similar case. The vessel was twelve years old, and for the last nine had been trading in the Malay Archipelago and South Sea Islands.

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