

Mr. Cox disagreed with Mr. McKay on his theory of formation of the lakes. He thought that to a large extent they had been excavated by the action of ice, and we had evidence of the great glaciers which had existed during Cretaceous times. He instanced the Blue Spur and Weatherstone's Gully as illustrations of this, and argued that these glaciers, which had deposited the drifts, had also in the first instance determined the configuration of the land, and that in all subsequent elevations and depressions, the form of the mountains then assumed, had been more or less maintained.

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FIFTH MEETING. 15th August, 1883.

Dr. Newman, Vice-president, in the chair.

1. "Remarks on the Distribution of the Organic Productions of New Zealand," by W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 461.)

Dr. Hector said the principle of the paper was to establish an isolated origin for the fauna and flora of New Zealand. It did not, however, disclose any source for that origin.

Dr. Newman said a very short time would suffice to make difference in species. For example, the colour of caterpillars depended on the food they ate.

Mr. Travers said he assumed that the flora and fauna of New Zealand were modified descendants of the fauna and flora of these islands during geological epochs. They were distinct from those seen elsewhere.

2. "Some new Discoveries in the Neighbourhood of Milford Sound," by Donald Sutherland; communicated by A. McKay. (*Transactions*, p. 454.)

3. "On the Occurrence of Chalcotrichite in New Zealand," by S. H. Cox, F.G.S. (*Transactions*, p. 448.)

This paper recorded the occurrence, in the Champion Copper Mine, Nelson, of a mineral not hitherto discovered in New Zealand. Specimens were shown; and the author also exhibited some very rich samples of copper ore from the same mine, that yielded as much as 67 per cent. of copper.

4. A letter was read from Mr. F. L. Dodds, describing a supposed Aerolite, which fell at Urenui on the 8th June last.

5. Dr. Hutchinson exhibited some transparencies of views taken in the Sandwich Islands; and Dr. Hector called attention to an exhibit of some very fine oranges, grown at the Bay of Islands by the Hon. Mr. Williams, M.L.C.

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SIXTH MEETING. 29th August, 1884.

The Hon. G. R. Johnson, President, in the chair.

New Member.—Lee Connell.

1. "Remarks concerning the Greenway Floating Breakwater," by J. C. Crawford.

ABSTRACT.

This information was communicated by the author, in the hope that the system might be applied to certain parts of Evans Bay, in Wellington Harbour, with a view to converting it into a wet dock. He suggested also that certain improvements might be made in the harbour itself, by placing these floating breakwaters in various places, which would lessen the difficulty of landing from vessels in rough weather.