Mr. Kirk thought the tree was identical with *Pisonia umbellifera*, and that the sticky exudation did act like birdlime in getting those large seeds carried on the feathers of birds.

3. Dr. Hector made some interesting remarks on earthquake disturbances in the ocean, referring to what he had said at the previous meeting, that the tidal disturbances felt on these shores about the time of the Sunda eruptions were due to their influence. The editor of the "New Zealand Journal of Science" had objected that, as the great Australian continent intervened directly between the Straits of Sunda and New Zealand, no tidal wave from that cause could have been felt here without being felt much more forcibly along the southern and western shores of Australia and Tasmania, and suggested that the disturbances felt here were probably due to other submarine movements in the Pacific. Late reports showed that the tidal disturbance was very marked on the west coast of Tasmania; and the disturbances felt here were found to coincide suggestively with the succession of earthquake shocks that followed the eruptions at Sunda. The retardation or acceleration of the tidal swell by those earthquake shocks would act and react in various directions, thereby causing disturbances of varying intensity on all the shores of these islands. An extraordinary phenomenon to which he particularly drew attention was, that atmospheric disturbances as self-registered by a delicately-adjusted barograph coincided remarkably in the sudden jerks on several days with the recorded eruptions at Sunda, beginning on the evening of the 27th August, and recurring on four or five days. These barometrical jerks and curves were exhibited by a diagram, with dates and hours given; and Dr Hector moreover pointed out that these readings in Wellington corresponded with similar jerks in the curves recorded by a self-registering barometer at Dunedin, showing that they were produced by a fast-moving influence that traversed the atmosphere quite independently of the ordinary cyclonic movements that were in progress during the same period.

4. The President exhibited a skin of a rat from Poverty Bay, which the Natives asserted was the true Maori rat, and raised a discussion as to there being a rat indigenous to these islands.

Dr. Buller believed the so-called Maori rat, which lived in trees, was really identical with the common *Mus rattus* of Europe.

Dr. Hector said that he concurred in this opinion; but Captain Hutton had inferred the former existence of another species from bones found in a subfossil state, and which was a flesh-eating rat, and therefore not *Mus rattus*, which species is very common in the bush country, and comes into Wellington during hard winters. In the northern forests they become very fat at certain seasons, when they feed on the bark of the *Patete*. They also feed largely on wild honey, and after Christmas are often found dead and stupefied in large numbers at the foot of the Puriri trees, being poisoned by the honey, which in some years is dangerous and even fatal to human life at that season.

Mr. McKay said rat bones were found mixed up with moa bones in situations which suggested that the rat and the moa were contemporaries, and exhibited specimens to illustrate this. Either the moa was not so ancient an inhabitant of these islands, or the rat must have been here anterior to the Maori immigration. If the *Mus rattus* of Europe existed here with the moa, by what agency was the rat introduced into these remote islands? It was suggested that the rat might have been introduced by the earliest navigators—perhaps by Tasman—and that the earliest rats and the latest moas existed together.