

hydatid that caused the disease "sturdy" or "gid" in sheep, and quoted Dr. Cobbold to that effect. That the disease "sturdy" in sheep did prevail in the Wairarapa he was convinced, from inquiries he had made among sheep-owners in that district; though in nearly all cases, from a want of knowledge of the subject, it had not been identified as "sturdy," but mistaken for "ergot"-poisoning. As a matter of fact, ergot, he said, had little or no action on sheep except during the period of gestation; but in healthy ruminants, when obtained or administered continuously for a considerable period, it would most likely cause sloughing of the hoofs; this, with the exception of general falling-off in condition, being usually the first observable symptom of ergot-poisoning. All the symptoms that had been described to him as due to ergot-poisoning were, as a matter of fact, identical with the symptoms of "sturdy." Again, as a rabbit-destroyer, how did the disease act? In the rabbit we find the hydatid lodged in the connective tissue of the skin and muscles; it grows to the size, perhaps, of an orange, and is said to displace the vital organs to such an extent as to cause death. But this is a very slow process: it takes weeks for the hydatid to grow to even an appreciable size, and does not during this period interfere with the reproductive powers of the rabbit; and when it *has* grown to a size sufficiently large to cause the displacement of a vital organ, *this* is not sufficient to cause death. We all know how even men can and do live with their vital organs in all sorts of strange positions, and bunny does not seem less able to do so; in fact, this displacement in the rabbit being so very gradual gives nature a chance of accommodating itself to its altered circumstances. He said he would be inclined to attribute the improvement in the rabbit-pest in the Wairarapa to the shooting, poisoning, and turning-out of the rabbit's natural enemies, which Mr. Coleman Phillips said had taken place, though he would certainly grant that rabbit-fluke, existing as widely as Mr. Phillips had represented it, would necessarily cause a certain mortality; but he believed this mortality would be extremely small, considering the nature of the pest we have to deal with, and urged that the disease had been propagated at far too great a risk to the sheep in the district.

Mr. Coleman Phillips, in reply to Mr. McClean, remarked that he did not believe at all that the bladder-worm of the rabbit gave the sheep in the Wairarapa sturdy, or gid. There were not many cases of sturdy, or gid, in the colony. It was a rare complaint amongst sheep, but in the Wairarapa a few sheep had become apparently sturried from eating ergot. Mr. McClean said the runholders were wrong in thinking that ergot was the cause of this; but Mr. Phillips thought that the runholders were right. He, however, desired to thank Mr. McClean for calling attention to the matter, as he was equally desirous of and interested in keeping diseases away from sheep. Professor Thomas had quoted from Rose in his report, and that gentleman drew from that authority a conclusion quite different from that of Mr. McClean. Bladdery rabbits were not harmful to sheep; and as to human beings, the Norfolk warreners have been in the habit for years past of pricking the bladders, and then sending the rabbits to market in the ordinary way. There were very few cases of hydatid heard of in England, where bladdery rabbits must often be eaten.

3. "Two Suggestions for the Consideration of the Governors of the New Zealand Institute," by A. de B. Brandon.

ABSTRACT.

The writer, in calling attention to, the many ways in which the measurements of small objects were recorded, stated that fractions (both vulgar and decimal) of an inch, lines, millimetres, and micro-millimetres were used by different writers, and suggested that the Governors of the Institute, in order to lessen the labours of a student, should insist on the adoption of one system of measurement in papers submitted for publica-

tion in the "Transactions." The writer also pointed out the incongruity sometimes caused by the use of personal surnames as the specific description of certain animals of small size, and suggested that proper names should not be used indiscriminately in the naming of new genera and species, but that good reason should be assigned for such use, and the approval of the Governors first obtained; and he further proposed that the Governors should publish a few elementary rules for the formation of the possessive case when proper names were latinised.

Mr. Hulke was glad that Mr. Brandon had brought the matter of measurement forward. It was most important that there should be a uniform system, and it ought to be that formerly introduced by the French, but now used in America and all continental States—namely, the metric system. We should teach it in our schools, to prepare for its general use fifty years hence.

Captain Hewett agreed that the decimal system should be uniformly adopted.

The President agreed entirely with the author's views on this subject. He suggested that Mr. Brandon should bring the matter before the Governors of the Institute, in the form of a definite resolution for their consideration.

The President drew attention to a valuable series of works, giving the latest information on the Hessian fly, which had been presented to the library.

THIRD MEETING: 25th July, 1888.

W. M. Maskell, F.R.M.S., President, in the chair.

New Member.—T. H. Robinson.

Papers.—1. "On the Limestones and other Rocks of the Rimutaka and Tararua Mountains," by A. McKay, F.G.S.

ABSTRACT.

Mr. McKay said that several years ago Mr. J. C. Crawford endeavoured to draw attention to the existence of valuable building-stones in the immediate vicinity of Wellington; and he believed that Mr. Crawford partly opened up a quarry on his property forming the Miramar Peninsula. Attention was at the same time drawn to some rocks on the range north-west of the Botanic Gardens, which were subsequently examined by Mr. Cox, late Assistant Geologist. All of these rocks proved too hard to dress easily, and they had consequently not come into general use. In the month of October last, the speaker said, samples of a comparatively soft sandstone were brought to the Colonial Museum from the western slopes of the Tararua Mountains. Shortly afterwards he examined the rocks of the range forming the water-parting between the Ruamahanga and Manawatu basins, with special reference to the occurrence of limestone five miles south of Eketahuna, and close to the main line of road to Masterton. These limestones formed a bed 10ft. to 12ft. thick, and were sufficiently hard to take a good polish. They varied in colours, being red, green, or grey, and were usually veined with white calc-spar veins; but, unfortunately, at the outcrop, and apparently throughout, the stone was so much jointed that no blocks more than 2ft. 6in. appeared likely to be obtained. Later in the season, Mr. McKay said, he explored the eastern slopes of the Tararua Ranges between the Waingawa and Tauherenikau Valleys, and along the gorge of the Waiohine River. A great part of the high vertical walls of rock forming the Waiohine Gorge was formed of calcareous diabasic ash. The rocks appeared to be an altered volcanic ash, and would be very beautiful if cut and polished. In some parts of the Waiohine Gorge the more cal-