

might not be in favour of Mr. Tregear's contention, but the point raised in Colonel McDonnell's paper—namely, the probable survival of the moa to a very recent date—might be safely affirmed and supported by a variety of evidence. Bearing on this, Mr. McKay said that some years ago he had collected from a moa's nest discovered by him in the western district of Nelson, and which from its position was under conditions most unfavourable for preservation of the remains found, these being scarcely protected from the direct action of the weather, and not more than 2in. under the surface, being covered by a thin layer of leaves and decayed vegetable matter; yet the bones of a moa-chick were found in this nest, together with bones of small birds, lizards, and rats; and it could not well be that these had resisted destruction from time immemorial.

Major Gudgeon stated that it was quite certain that Kawaua Paipai did point out the ovens referred to and dig up the bones. The reason why the Maoris did not speak much about the moa was that the existence of the bird was looked upon as so much a matter of fact, and it was so common. There was very little tradition on the subject. In speaking of the forest at Te Wairoa, Hawke's Bay, a native had explained to him that it had been burned by firing the scrub in order to capture the moa; that the bird was easily frightened, and that the Maoris of old used to fire the fern and scrub round the birds, who would huddle together and fall an easy prey.

The President said it appeared to him that every discussion on this subject, especially perhaps the present one, added more and more weight to his argument that one direct statement of fact, one positive testimony, was worth a thousand negative theories drawn from absence of legends. The contention of Mr. Colenso, Mr. Tregear, and their friends simply amounted to saying to Maoris, "You be when you tell us that you or your grandfather ever saw a moa, because other Maoris say nothing about those birds." Weaker logic could probably not be found anywhere.

2. "On some Gall-producing Insects in New Zealand," by W. M. Maskell, F.R.M.S. (*Transactions*, p. 253.)

3. "Notes on the *Lasioptera cerealis*," by G. V. Hudson.

ABSTRACT.

Mr. Hudson said that, in view of the extensive crops of rye which he understood were grown in the southern parts of New Zealand, he felt it his duty to bring before the Society a very serious insect-enemy to rye, which, although he believed it had not at present arrived in the colony, yet might reasonably be expected to appear at any moment. When he pointed out that this insect bears exactly the same relation to rye as the Hessian fly does to wheat and barley, its serious character would be at once understood, especially when we reflected that whole tracts of country in Russia are completely devastated by its attacks. It therefore behoved all farmers and others in charge of rye-crops to be on the lookout for any kind of disease in the plants during the coming summer. Any specimens which might be sent to him he would be very pleased to examine and report on, as he had descriptions of the insect and its mode of attack in his possession.

Sir J. Hector said, in reference to this subject he might state that Mr. Koebele, of the United States Agricultural Department, who had been specially sent to Australia to obtain the natural remedy for the *Icerya purchasi*, or wattle-blight, had been successful in securing the particular ichneumon-fly near Adelaide, and that he (Sir J. Hector) had arranged for a shipment being made to New Zealand at an early date. The society would remember that the *Icerya purchasi* was the remarkable Coccid described by our President some years ago, and which had proved

so destructive in Nelson and in most parts of the North Island except the Wellington District.

4. "Notes on Te Karamea Bluff," by Captain G. Mair.

ABSTRACT.

Te Karamea Bluff is about a mile and a half south of Motuokura or Bare Island, and south of Cape Kidnappers some ten miles. It projects into the sea about 120 yards, and is joined to the mainland by a razor-back ridge of white marl, some 20ft. or 30ft. high and half the thickness. The highest part of the bluff is close on 100ft. It is formed of crumbling stone of every conceivable colour, red and chrome predominating. The whole mass appears to be resting on and slipping to seaward from a layer of marl. No other similar formation exists in the district, except in a small valley running parallel to the coast about a quarter of a mile west of the bluff, where there is a mound of the same material, about the size of a large haystack, cropping out on the hill-side. This place was formerly a refuge for the native tribes during war-time, as it is almost inaccessible. About 1828-30 a war-party of Ngatihonua, from the Thames, under Takurua, who was afterwards killed at Kaipaki by Te Waharoa, laid siege to Te Karamea. The besieged were unable to lay in a store of food and water, and sustained themselves for a considerable time by occasionally lowering the most venturesome of their number into the sea at the outer end, who would collect limpets and seaweed from the rocks, and be drawn up the cliffs by ropes. Eventually they became so emaciated from want of food that the pa was taken, and a great massacre took place. The spot is now very sacred in the estimation of the natives living in the district. They had a whaling-station near by a few years ago, and a good boat-landing exists on the north or east side, according to the wind.

Mr. McKay said he was pleased that the paper had been read, more especially as it was evident the writer was unaware that a discussion on the true position of the red rocks had taken place; and yet the paper and sketch made it quite clear that these overlie the marl and greensand-beds of the isthmus and mainland. The evidence given in the paper was thus in agreement with what he himself reported in 1875, and again in 1886, and in no sense bore out the contention put forward by Professor Hutton that the rocks of Red Island—Te Karamea Bluff—are of palæozoic age, and are referable to the Rimutaka series.

5. "Remarks on Earthquakes in the Amuri District, South Island," by Alexander McKay, F.G.S.

ABSTRACT.

The author commenced by stating that, for twelve months previous to the end of August last, booming noises, proceeding from the ground, had been heard in the district surrounding the Hanmer Plains, and that towards the end of that month earthquakes began to be experienced; these premonitions were followed by the great shock of the 1st September, which did nearly all the damage that happened to buildings, and opened most of the fissures that are yet to be seen. This was followed by the shock of the 28th September, and, after a like period, by that of the 23rd October, and those of the 26th and 28th of the same month; there being just about a lunar month between the first and second and the second and last series of shocks. Mr. McKay then described the effects the earthquakes had produced, and gave a detailed account descriptive of the fissures opened at many places along the Waiau-ua and Hope Valleys, more especially those seen near the mouth of Gorge Creek near Hopefield, at Hopefield, and at and near Glynn Wye. The present ruined condition of the buildings at Glynn Wye was described, and the manner in which the fences