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MUSEUM.

The number of names entered in the "Visitors' Book" since the 30th June, 1879, does not represent more than one-third of the total number who visited the institution during the year, which from other data is estimated to be not less than 40,000 persons.

The average Sunday attendance still keeps up, showing that the public thoroughly appreciates the action of the Government in throwing open the collections on that day.

Seven thousand articles have been added to the collections, the greater portion of which were procured by officers of the department.

NATURAL HISTORY COLLECTIONS.

Large additions have been made to this section; but the want of space mentioned in each report for several years past prevents the possibility of exhibiting numerous and valuable objects belonging to this class in a satisfactory manner.

Mammalia.—The recent acquisitions, though not numerous, are exceedingly valuable and interesting, the most noticeable being—the skeleton of an adult specimen of *Neobalæna marginata* (Gray) from Stewart Island, and a calf of the same species from Ohario; an adult and calf of *Kogia breviceps* (Gray) from Lyell Bay; and skins and skeletons of the sea-lion (*Otaria hookeri*) from the Auckland Islands.