

Dr. Günther says that *N. elegans* and *N. punctatus* are one and the same species.

"*Norbea isolata*.

"I fear Captain Hutton is wrong in referring his new species to the genus *Norbea*. Dr. Günther is of the same opinion, and considers the existence of such a form in New Zealand as improbable as the occurrence there of a crocodile!

"The 'depression on the top of the head' may be a mere abnormality of character, for this is very common among the lizards.

"*Nautilinus sulphureus*.

"There are two specimens of my *N. sulphureus* in the British Museum, one of them presented by Dr. Sinclair, the other by Capt. Byron Drury, R.N.

"I think Capt. Hutton will find, on further inquiry, that Dr. Hector's type-specimen did come *originally* from the Hot Springs.

#### BIRDS.

"*H. brunnea*.

"Dr. Finsch writes me as follows:—'I consider *Hieracidea brunnea* as doubtful a species as *Nestor occidentalis*; and if you declare the very singular *Stringops greyi* a mere variety I think you ought to do the same with the two former.'

"Mr. J. H. Gurney, however, who is an acknowledged authority on *Accipitres*, writes me, under date April 10, 'I am sure you are right about the distinctness of the two New Zealand *Hieracideæ*.'

"*Nestor occidentalis* has been retained provisionally for the reasons given in my work on the Birds of New Zealand (pp. 50-51). My arguments for the reduction of *Stringops greyi* to the rank of a synonym are, I think, conclusive. Mr. G. R. Gray (who described the so-called new species) says he accepts my decision. I may add that latterly he was himself very doubtful of the validity of the species."

Captain Hutton explained with reference to *Norbea isolata*, that he thought the frequent representation in New Zealand of tropical forms was not sufficiently appreciated. The lizard in question is of a stunted form, and may be a case like some tropical plants that are found in New Zealand and other islands near hot springs.

4. Dr. Hector described a Porpoise that had been shot by Mr. Lewis Wilson, from the s.s. "Luna." The skull proves it to be *Electra clancula*, a species founded on the skull of a specimen in the British Museum. (*Vide ante*, p. 160.)

5. "The Ascent of Tauakira," by H. C. Field.

(ABSTRACT.)

Tauakira, known to sailors as "The Devil's Thumb," is an important