

earlier, for at this date it would be less easy to trace its origin. It shows itself early in the spring, and spreads outwards like a ringworm all through the summer till the beginning of autumn, when it disappears, leaving a circular patch; some of these patches have been seen fifty yards in diameter. In some instances, more especially in light good soils, as the circle extends the pasture springs up behind it, but upon heavy land the patch is usually quite denuded of vegetation. I have only seen it on red clover (*Trifolium pratense*) and cow-grass (*T. medium*) growing with such vigour that the unfortunate plant is quite hidden by the parasite. If taken in time its ravages may be checked by pairing clean and burning, but if neglected during the first weeks of spring nothing short of turning up the whole field will destroy it. I am indebted to Captain Rich of Fernside (where I first saw the *Cuscuta* growing) for information touching its habits.

3. "Notes on the Naturalized Plants of the Chatham Islands," by T. Kirk, F.L.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 320.)

This comprised a catalogue of the introduced plants observed in a naturalized condition by Mr. H. H. Travers during his exploration of the islands.

4. "On Compound Engines," by W. Lodder. (See *Transactions*, p. 144.)

FIFTH MEETING. 23rd September, 1872.

T. Heale, President, in the chair.

New members.—J. Henderson, J. Lackland, J. Lamb, J. M. Fraser, J. Webster.

The monthly list of donations to the Library and Museum was read by the Secretary.

1. "On the Rate of Growth of Native Trees under Cultivation," by J. Baber, C.E.

(ABSTRACT.)

In comparison with European and Australian trees, those of the North Island are slow in growth.

Trees of the following kinds were planted by me in 1851-52 at Remuera, at an elevation above the sea of 210 feet, on a clay soil (Waitemata series); the height these have attained during twenty years is given in the following table:—

				Ft.	In.
Ti (<i>Cordyline australis</i>)	...	...	...	24	0
Puriri (<i>Vitex littoralis</i>)	...	...	...	20	0
Mapau or Tipau, black var. (<i>Myrsine australis</i>)	...	...	...	17	0