

Mr. Maskell did not suppose there was any particular advantage in having growths of this enormous size. He would prefer the ordinary size.

3. A gurnard, received from Mr. Hamilton, of Napier, was exhibited.

Sir James Hector said it was probably the true *Trigla vanessa* of Richardson, which has been confounded with another fish from Tasmania, figured in Professor McCoy's "Zoology of Victoria." There were three species of the gurnard already known in New Zealand, and this probably made a fourth.

FIFTH MEETING: 2nd October, 1889.

A. de B. Brandon, President, in the chair.

*New Member.*—Robert Heaton Rhodes.

*Papers.*—1. "On *Eristalis tenax* and *Musca vomitoria*, two Flies new to New Zealand," by G. V. Hudson, F.E.S. (*Transactions*, p. 187.)

Sir James Hector asked the author of the paper whether he could offer any explanation as to why the humble-bee had spread with such rapidity in the South, and not made its appearance in the North Island.

Mr. Travers said he had liberated the humble-bee in the neighbourhood of Masterton two years ago, and they must have increased, as he had seen them in his own garden in Wellington. He procured them for the purpose of fertilizing the red clover. The Acclimatization Society had not paid sufficient attention to this matter. With respect to *M. vomitoria*, it was looked upon with dread by the sheep-farmer in England, as it not only damaged the wool, but deposited its ova in the sheep, and caused great trouble; so that it was rather alarming to learn that this fly had appeared here.

Mr. Phillips had noticed that sheep had been attacked by flies in the way described by Mr. Travers, and the remedy used was kerosene.

Mr. McKay said that the sheep were attacked when the wool was moist, especially on warm wet spring mornings, and the fly did not confine its attack to one particular part, but attacked various parts. The introduction of *M. vomitoria* was a serious thing for the sheep-farmer.

Mr. Maskell said that attempts were made in the early days to introduce the humble-bee in Canterbury, but they were not a success. Five or six years ago, however, there was a fresh importation. The increase had been something wonderful; in fact, they had in the South become a nuisance, and the people complained that they deprived the ordinary bee of the means of making honey.

The Hon. R. Pharazyn said bees and flies were like rabbits—when first introduced they were not noticed, but after a time the increase was so enormous that it was difficult to keep them down.

Mr. Field said it was easy to drive away the humble-bee by growing the common elder, which they objected to. He was advised not to take them to Wanganui, as they spoil the flowers.

Mr. Hudson, in reply, said that the probable reason why the humble-bee had not established itself in the North Island was owing to its being a social insect, thus rendering the introduction of an entire nest necessary for its establishment in any fresh locality.