

study itself; the very slightest variation seemed sufficient to induce them to make a new species. But with the Coccids they had been careful in this respect, and hence the few new species: they required an organic character, and not a mere colour. It was a question as to how far we were warranted in making long lists of species on small, trivial, and external characters.

Mr. Hudson was sorry Sir W. Buller was not present, as he would more fully answer Mr. Maskell on this subject. What applied to Coccids did not apply to other insects; each case should be judged on its merits. If colour and other characters are constant, then we must accept them as sufficient.

Sir J. Hector said that Mr. Maskell's list would be most valuable, as it would contain all the known species of Coccids up to date, with remarks and information that will be most useful to farmers and fruit-growers.

The President also said the list would be of the greatest use.

4. "On Baryte: a Rare Form," by Sir J. Hector.

This specimen was handed to Sir J. Hector by Major-General Schaw. It is a nodular variety, known as "Bologna stone," and is composed of sulphate of baryta, or heavy spar. It commonly occurs in differently-formed crystals, and is used as a substitute for white-lead, and also in sugar-refining. This particular form is remarkable for its brilliant phosphorescence after heating with charcoal. Bologna phosphorus was made by powdering this material and cementing the powder with gum. The locality is the glauconitic marls, inland of Akiteo.

5. "Pélé's Hair (Volcanic Glass-fibre)," by Sir J. Hector.

The sample exhibited by Sir J. Hector was forwarded by the Customs Department, and was taken from a box that was cast up on the north-west side of Portland Island. The box was found by Mr. C. H. O. Robson, the lighthouse-keeper, on the 9th September. It was strongly made of 2in. pitch-pine boards, without any marks. It contained a mass of the fibrous variety of volcanic glass known as Pélé's hair, packed in charcoal, in which were a charred cotton-reel and fragments of bamboo.

Pélé is the Hawaiian name for the goddess that presides over Kilauea, the great volcano of the Sandwich Islands. The hair is formed by the action of the wind on the jets of very fluid lava or volcanic glass, which it blows to leeward in delicate films, each weighted by a little spherical globule of the glass. The films accumulate to leeward of the pool in great masses, like mown grass, and lie all pointing in the same direction.

6. "On the Occurrence of a Mineral Belt in the Heart of the great Schist-formation of Otago," by Sir J. Hector.

The author exhibited a large series of specimens of serpentine, asbestos, and other magnesian rocks from the south end