

weta's bite, if some enthusiastic votary of science would submit to the infliction, and he commended the subject to the consideration of members.

2. "On Seasonal Time-adjustment in Countries South of Lat. 30°," by G. V. Hudson, F.E.S.

ABSTRACT.

The author proposed to alter the time of the clock at the equinoxes so as to bring the working-hours of the day within the period of daylight, and, by utilising the early morning, so reduce the excessive use of artificial light which at present prevails.

Mr. Travers said the clocks could be managed by having different hands. He did not think we were far enough advanced to adopt the plan advocated by the author of the paper.

Mr. Harding said that the only practical part of Mr. Hudson's paper had long since been anticipated by Benjamin Franklin, one of whose essays denounced the extravagance of making up for lost daylight by artificial light. Mr. Hudson's original suggestions were wholly unscientific and impracticable. If he really had found many to support his views, they should unite and agitate for a reform.

Mr. Maskell said that the mere calling the hours different would not make any difference in the time. It was out of the question to think of altering a system that had been in use for thousands of years, and found by experience to be the best. The paper was not practical.

Mr. Hawthorne did not see any difficulty in carrying out the views advocated so ably by Mr. Hudson.

Mr. Hustwick was of opinion that the reform spoken of would have to wait a little longer.

Mr. Richardson said that it would be a good thing if the plan could be applied to the young people.

Mr. Hudson, in reply, said that he was sorry to see the paper treated rather with ridicule. He intended it to be practical. It was approved of by those much in the open air. There would be no difficulty in altering the clocks.

3. Mr. Harding read a short paper entitled "An Ornithological Note." (*Transactions*, p. 376.)

Mr. Travers said it was like the statement that the kiwi laid one egg which took two years to hatch. He presumed that Mr. Harding wished to caution people against such unreliable books.

Sir W. Buller said that such blunders ought to be corrected. He had occasion to take a similar course with blunders of leading writers when dealing with New Zealand natural history, such as confounding the kakapo, a nocturnal parrot subsisting entirely on mosses and other vegetation, with the kea, or sheep-killing parrot, from the mountains. It would be a mistake not to correct such statements. It was not surprising to find mistakes of this kind in the class of books referred to, the product of paste-pot and scissors, and got up for a foreign market.

The President said that it was to such blunders as those pointed out by Mr. Harding that many erroneous views regarding our natural history may be traced. He mentioned several instances.

4. "Further Notes on *Dactylanthus taylori*," with specimens and drawings of the flowers, by T. Kirk, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 496.)

Sir W. Buller said it was a curious thing that this plant was so sporadic in its distribution. With the exception of the locality mentioned by Mr. Hill, it appeared to exist in single plants distantly scattered over the country. It was first discovered by the Rev. R. Taylor. In his

"New Zealand and its Inhabitants" there is a good figure of the flower. This is one of the most interesting things in his book. Mr. Taylor made mistakes in the ornithology of the country, but he was most observant and devoted to natural history. It was satisfactory to learn from the President that this plant had been met with in the Rangitikei district, and he hoped it would yet turn up in his own bush in the Manawatu.

Mr. Maskell said, if it were likely to be found in the South he would get some friend to be on the look-out for it.

The President said that the plant occurred at the Thames, East Cape, New Plymouth, Upper Whanganui, and Rangitikei, but was most plentiful at East Cape. He could not speak positively about the South.

Sir W. Buller exhibited the following:—

1. An albino tui (*Prosthemadera novæ-zealandiæ*). This was the first instance he had met with of a perfectly white tui. It was a young male, from Stewart Island. Entire plumage milk-white, with tinge of cream on shoulders, back, and sides; even the bill and feet are white.

2. Specimen of tree-lizard described by Mr. Colenso as *Naultinus versicolor* (Trans. N.Z. Inst., vol. xvii., p. 150), so called on account of its having the faculty of changing its colour under the influence of certain emotions. It was obtained by Mr. A. Luff at Vogeltown, and he presented it to the Museum in that gentleman's name. Mr. Luff remarks that this lizard in its colour resembled the bark of the manuka-tree upon which he captured it, about 5ft. from the ground.

The President exhibited specimens of the fruit of the makomako (*Aristotelia racemosa*), which he thought would become an article of export from this colony. It was found of great use in colouring wines, and would probably prove superior to the Chilian species, which was largely imported into France for that purpose.

The President submitted for inspection a number of coloured drawings of New Zealand Veronicas which he had received from Sir Joseph Hooker, who had prepared them for publication in Curtis's *Botanical Magazine*. Most of them had been made from cultivated plants, and differed slightly in appearance from wild specimens, owing probably to the difference in soil and climate; but there was no structural difference of the slightest importance. The series was specially interesting, as it comprised several forms which had not been named or described.

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#### EIGHTH MEETING: 13th November, 1895.

Mr. T. Kirk, President, in the chair.

*New Members.*—Mr. A. McDougall, Mr. H. D. Bell, and Mr. T. Hislop.

The President informed the meeting that steps were being taken to found a national memorial to the late Right Honourable T. H. Huxley, and that those wishing to subscribe to the fund for the memorial could do so by communicating with Professor Parker, of Dunedin, who was acting as general secretary in New Zealand.

The President also stated that news had just been received of the death of Professor C. V. Riley, the head of the Agricultural Department