

A number of these photographs, as well as bromide enlargements, were on exhibition, and were much admired.

4. Sir J. Hector exhibited a specimen of the very rare metal Osmium-iridium, found at Parapara, Collingwood.

He stated that the appearance of this metal always indicated country of a very high metallurgic value. Osmium-iridium was worth about twice the value of gold; and another metal, Palladium—traces of which were to be seen in the specimen exhibited—was worth very much more. The only article known which was made of this metal was a small goblet in the Paris mint. The bearings of the standard balances in the mints at Paris and London were also made of this rare metal, at enormous cost. Osmium-iridium was used for the hard tips upon gold nibs, &c. Both these metals were found at Parapara mixed with the gold recovered by the company in that locality. But what this colony should find was Thorium, which used to be worth nearly £40 an ounce, and was now in great demand for making the mantles used over gas-burners. He added that he believed it might perhaps be found in New Zealand. Owing to recent discoveries in Brazil its value was now much reduced.

5. Sir J. Hector gave a short account of the recent "rain of blood" in Australia, and exhibited a specimen of the red dust collected from vegetation after the sanguinary shower, received from Mr. Krull.

He said he had examined it and found that it was largely composed of ferruginous clay. It was probably dust swept up into a cloud from the dry parts in the interior of the Australian Continent. When the cloud condensed the red dust came down with the rain. The dust showed evidences of containing vegetable matter such as would be likely to form on the surface of dried-up lakes.

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ANNUAL MEETING: 17th February, 1897.

Mr. W. T. L. Travers, President, in the chair.

The report and balance-sheet were read and adopted. The balance-sheet set forth the receipts for the year (including the balance brought forward, £66 17s. 8d.) to be £171 17s. 8d., the expenditure £90 9s., and the balance £81 8s. 8d., to which has to be added £31 5s. 6d. lodged in the bank at interest as a "Research Fund": making a total credit balance of £112 14s. 2d.

OFFICE-BEARERS.—The four retiring members—viz., the President (Mr. Travers), one Vice-president (Mr. R. C. Harding), and two members of the Council (Mr. Tregear and Major-General Schaw)—were all re-elected, as follow; Mr. R. L. Mestayer being elected in the place of Mr. Farquhar, who resigned. *President*—W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S.; *Vice-presidents*—R. C. Harding, E. Tregear, F.R.G.S.; *Council*—Sir W. Buller, K.C.M.G., F.R.S., W. M. Maskell, G. V.