

AUCKLAND INSTITUTE.

FIRST MEETING: 8th June, 1896.

Mr. D. Petrie, President, in the chair.

New Members.—A. T. Potter, A. T. Pycroft, R. H. Shakespear, E. Yates, J. E. Yates.

The President delivered the anniversary address, taking as his subject "A Modern Chapter in Vegetable Physiology." (*Transactions*, p. 427.)

SECOND MEETING: 22nd June, 1896.

Mr. D. Petrie, President, in the chair.

Professor F. D. Brown gave a popular lecture on Fluorescence, accompanying it with numerous experimental illustrations.

THIRD MEETING: 6th July, 1896.

Mr. D. Petrie, President, in the chair.

New Members.—H. Boscawen, R. Briffault, P. Marshall, M. Keesing.

Papers.—1. "Notice of the Occurrence of *Diadema nerina* at Hamilton, Waikato," by S. T. Seddon.

On the afternoon of the 20th of April last, when the sun was in its power, our garden was graced by the presence of a most beautiful butterfly (*Diadema nerina*). It was seen by Mrs. Seddon, myself, and the servant; it stayed with us about a quarter of an hour, sipping honey from petunias, phlox, and heliotrope. It was a large insect, measuring about 4in. in expanse of wing. The predominant colour was velvety black, with broad white markings, and a small white spot at the apex of each upper wing, and a large round white spot in the middle of each lower wing, surrounded by a zone of iridescent purplish blue, which in some lights was emerald-green. The whole insect was covered with velvety hairs inclining to brown over the body and adjacent parts. The broad white markings on the upper wings were most distinct when the insect was looking down from above. It is very powerful in flight, which resembles that of *Vanessa atalanta*. *Diadema nerina* is decidedly the queen of New Zealand Lepidoptera, and, although I have been in New Zealand thirty-six years without seeing this beautiful butterfly, I am already hungering to see it again.

Mr. Cheeseman said *Diadema* appeared to be very scarce in New Zealand, although not uncommon in Australia and some parts of Polynesia. It was first collected by Dr. Sinclair, who sent a specimen to the British Museum about 1855. Since then not more than ten or twelve specimens appear to have been taken in all.

2. "Notes on the Cicadas of New Zealand," by A. T. Potter. (*Transactions*, p. 280.)

3. "On Fires in Coal-ships: Their Causes and Prevention," by J. C. Firth. (*Transactions*, p. 100.)

FOURTH MEETING: 20th July, 1896.

Professor A. P. Thomas, Vice-president, in the chair.

Mr. F. G. Ewington gave a popular lecture on South Africa.

FIFTH MEETING: 3rd August, 1896.

Mr. D. Petrie, President, in the chair.

New Member.—Rev. Mr. Major.

Papers.—1. "Descriptions of New Native Plants," by D. Petrie, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 425.)

2. "Supplement to the List of Flowering-plants indigenous to Otago," by D. Petrie, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 421.)

3. "Notice of the Establishment of *Vallisneria spiralis* in Lake Takapuna, together with some Remarks on its Life-history," by T. F. Cheeseman, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 386.)

4. "On the Disappearance of the New Zealand Bush," by the Rev. P. Walsh. (*Transactions*, p. 490.)

SIXTH MEETING: 17th August, 1896.

Mr. D. Petrie, President, in the chair.

Professor C. W. Egerton gave a popular lecture on Carlyle.

SEVENTH MEETING: 7th September, 1896.

Professor A. P. Thomas, Vice-president, in the chair.

New Member.—Mr. W. R. Walker.