

SIXTH MEETING: 14th October, 1891.

Professor F. B. de M. Gibbons, President, in the chair.

Paper.—"On the Working of Greenstone, or Nephrite, by the Maoris," by F. R. Chapman. (*Transactions*, p. 479.)

The reading of this paper was followed by an exhibition of a fine collection of greenstones from the collections of Messrs. Chapman and J. White.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING: 10th November, 1891.

Professor F. B. de M. Gibbons, President, in the chair.

Papers.—1. "On the Genus *Aptornis*, with more especial Reference to *Aptornis defossor*, Owen," by A. Hamilton. (*Transactions*, p. 175.)

Mr. Hamilton exhibited a complete mounted skeleton of *Aptornis defossor*, and a number of bones of the extinct eagle (*Harpagornis moorei*), from caves in the District of Southland.

2. "On New Zealand Araneæ," by P. Goyen, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 253.)

3. "Notes on Sea-fishes," by G. M. Thomson, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 202.)

4. "Note on the Cleistogamic Flowers of *Melicope simplex*," by G. M. Thomson, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 416.)

5. "On some Maori Bone Pendants from Otago," by A. Hamilton.

6. "Notes on some New Zealand Amphipoda and Isopoda," by Charles Chilton, M.A., B.Sc. (*Transactions*, p. 258.)

Professor Parker exhibited a species of *Branchellion*, a leech with external gills, belonging to the family Rhynchobdellidæ, and occurring as an external parasite on the common skate (*Raja nasuta*). A single specimen had been found some years previously, but on the present occasion a skate dissected in the Biological Laboratory presented a colony of thirty or forty of the parasites on an area of 3in. or 4in. in circumference. They varied in length from $\frac{1}{4}$ in. to $1\frac{1}{2}$ in., and were all so firmly attached by the posterior sucker that on their removal the fish's skin presented a number of smooth, circular, convex areas. The smaller specimens, treated with Flemming's chrom. osm. acetic solution, flattened under a compressor, and mounted entire, make very beautiful microscopic objects. The only species of this interesting genus mentioned in the ordinary works of reference is *R. torpedinis*, of Europe, a parasite on the torpedo. If the present form turns out to be new, it might be called *R. rajæ*. Professor Parker also exhibited specimens of *Dujardinia*, a polychætous worm, from Port Chalmers.