

Mr. F. R. Chapman exhibited a number of Maori bone implements, fish-hooks, neck-ornaments, &c., found in the neighbourhood of Dunedin.

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THIRD MEETING: 14th July, 1891.

Mr. Adams, Vice-president, in the chair.

Mr. G. M. Thomson, F.L.S., gave a lecture on the Dunedin water-supply, with illustrations projected on the screen by means of a lantern microscope.

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FOURTH MEETING: 11th August, 1891.

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

*Papers.*—1. "On the Structure of *Boltenia pachydermatina*," by James Watt, M.A.; communicated by Professor T. J. Parker, F.R.S. (*Transactions*, p. 334.)

2. "On the Extinction of the Native Birds on the West Coast," by James Richardson.

A long and interesting discussion followed the reading of this paper, which attributed the disappearance of the kiwi and kakapo to the ravages of ferrets.

Sir Walter Buller pointed out that the decrease had been apparent before the introduction of ferrets, and was inclined to think that the Norway rat was responsible for much of the mischief. It was suggested that steps should be taken by the Society to represent to the Government the desirability of proclaiming some suitable islands as reserves, on which the rarer species of New Zealand birds might be placed in safety.

Professor Parker exhibited two rare species of fish recently added to the Museum collection, and portions of a fossil sword-fish found in the limestone on the estate of Messrs. Sutherland, near the Milburn Lime Company's works.

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FIFTH MEETING: 9th September, 1891.

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

*New Members.*—James Richardson, Spencer Cook.

The Secretary announced that a letter had been forwarded to the Colonial Secretary from the Council on the subject of reserves for the protection of certain of the native birds.

*Paper.*—"On the Foundation and Settlement of Canterbury," by Dr. Hocken.

This was a further contribution to a series of lectures on the early history of New Zealand.