far-reaching call; but few Maoris of the present generation are able to sound it.

4. "Notes on a Land Planarian, collected by F. V. Knapp, Nelson," by Sir James Hector. (*Transactions*, p. 255.)

The author gave an account of the specimens previously found, and of this family generally, and described their distribution in Australia and New Zealand. He urged collectors to be on the look-out for them.

Mr. Maskell said that the black swamps were full of such worms.

Mr. Hudson had observed them in Wellington after rain, brown and red in colour.

Sir James Hector laid on the table and remarked on the following exhibits: 1. Two lizards. 2. Fish from Paraparaumu. 3. Fossils collected by the Geological Survey. 4. Lithographic stone found in Mongonui district by Geological Survey, with a specimen prepared and drawing on it. 5. Fossil barnacle. 6. Rocks from Hikurangi, which fix the coal-measures as being identical with those in South Island. 7. Black gum out of swamp; giving a description of the various gums and their value.

Mr. G. V. Hudson exhibited some butterflies, mounted by himself.

SECOND MEETING: *3rd August, 1892.*

Sir Walter Buller, President, in the chair.

New Member.—Mr. Cyril Tanner.

Papers.—1. "On a New Zealand Variety of *Floscularia coronetta*, Cubitt," by Archdeacon Stock, B.A.; communicated by Mr. W. M. Maskell. (*Transactions*, p. 193.)

Mr. Maskell gave a general description of these minute animals, and said they were most beautiful objects under the microscope. He said they were very easily collected.

Mr. Powles said he had obtained good samples in the ponds in the Botanic Gardens.

2. "On a Diatom Deposit at Pakaraka, Bay of Islands," by A. McKay, F.G.S. (*Transactions*, p. 375.)

Sir James Hector described the locality where this deposit occurs as a small lagoon that is fed by an underground passage from a lake south-east of the volcanic hill Parerua. The hollow has been formed by the intrusion of ancient lava-streams. It dries up frequently, and the diatoms with which it swarms then die, and their siliceous remains form a layer which bleaches. When the pool again fills with the naturally-filtered water a fresh crop grows, and the species that predominate no doubt depends on the season of the year at which this takes place, and thus causes the great variety observed.

Mr. Maskell said that, as Mr. McKay had referred to him in the paper, it was necessary that he should say a few words upon the matter. He would not give any opinion whatsoever as to the geological aspect of