

PROCEEDINGS

OF THE

Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science.

VOL. IV. PART III.

Provincial Museum, Oct. 11, 1876.

ANNIVERSARY MEETING.

J. B. GILPIN, B. A., M. D., M. R. C. S., *President, in the Chair.*

Inter alia.

The following gentlemen were elected office-bearers for the ensuing year:—

President—J. B. GILPIN, M. D., &c.

Vice-Presidents—WILLIAM GOSSIP, F. ALLISON, M. A.

Treasurer—W. C. SILVER.

Joint Secretaries—Rev. D. HONEYMAN, D. C. L., &c.; J. T. MELLISH, M. A.

Council—A. P. REID, M. D., G. LAWSON, LL. D., &c.; Sheriff BELL, J. M. DEWOLFE, M. D., &c., J. SOMMERS, M. D., L. G. POWER, ROBERT MORROW, AUGUSTUS ALLISON.

ORDINARY MEETING, November 13, 1876.

Dr. J. B. GILPIN, *President, in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY announced that the Council had elected Mr. GEOFFREY MORROW a member of the Institute.

The PRESIDENT exhibited a sketch of a piece of carved stone or rock which he had found near Digby. He thought that the characters were Aztec rather than Runic. Dr. Gilpin also exhibited a beautiful Indian pipe.

J. SOMMERS, M. D., then read a paper on the "*Compositæ of Nova Scotia*," and exhibited several preserved specimens of Asters, which he very minutely described. (*See Transactions.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, Dec. 11, 1876.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

The SECRETARY stated that Dr. DEWOLFE, of London, Eng., had been elected a corresponding member of the Institute.

The President, Dr. GILPIN, made some highly interesting and instructive observations on specimens laid on the table :—

1. On a specimen of the Head of a dead Pelican, found lying on the shore at Upper Prospect.
2. On a Stone Axe found in Dartmouth, and presented to the Museum by Mr. DONALD ROSS, of Dartmouth.

Mr. A. DEWAR then read a paper entitled: "*A New Theory of the Descent of Man*," after which a discussion took place in which the PRESIDENT, Dr. REID, Dr. SOMMERS, Honble. L. G. POWER, and Dr. J. G. MCGREGOR, took part.

ORDINARY MEETING, January 13, 1877.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

It was announced by Mr. MELLISH that Dr. J. G. MCGREGOR and Mr. J. P. HAGARTY had been duly elected members of the Institute.

The Rev. Dr. HONEYMAN read a printed communication from PRINCIPAL DAWSON, giving an account of a recent discovery of Fossil Batrachians in the Coal Formation of the South Joggins. This discovery added new Reptiles to the list already recorded as found at the Joggins by the author, and also threw new light on the whole subject. The communication is to be found in *Silliman's Journal*.

DR. A. P. REID then read a paper "On the Rates of Mortality in Ancient and Modern Times." The observations in the paper were general in character, and distinctly exhibited facts in favour of the view that the death rates have been much lower in modern than in ancient times. (*See Transactions*.)

ORDINARY MEETING, Feb. 12, 1877.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair*.

The SECRETARY announced that he had received the Transactions of the Academy of Sciences of Davenport, Iowa, and also the first number of a similar publication from the National Historical Society of Brazil.

The Rev. Dr. HONEYMAN read a paper "On Nova Scotian Geology at the Centennial." After reading his paper, Dr. H. made some observations on the "*Eozoon Canadense*," (Dawson). Its nature was illustrated by beautiful microscopic sections prepared with great care by T. Weston, Esq., of the Geological Survey of Canada, and by *nummulites* partially and entirely filled with *glauconite*. Its forameniferal relations were illustrated by foramenifera from dredgings from H. M. S. *Challenger*. Dr. H. stated that there was difference of opinion in regard to the true nature of the *Eozoon*,—some regarding it as an organic and others as a mineral structure, while yet others were undecided. (*See Transactions*.)

ORDINARY MEETING, March 12, 1877.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

W. GOSSIP, Esq., Vice President, having taken the Chair, Dr. GILPIN read an interesting paper "On the Indians of Nova Scotia." The subject was illustrated by sketches and pictures by different writers. (*See Transactions.*)

ORDINARY MEETING, April 9, 1877.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

ROBERT MORROW, Esq., read a highly instructive paper "On the Anatomy of the Cariboo." The subject was illustrated by a number of specimens of the limbs, skin, head and other parts of the animal. (*See Transactions.*)

A paper was then read "On a new method of Measuring the Resistance of Electrolytes," by J. G. MCGREGOR, M. A., D. Sc., (Lond.) In this paper a new method was described combining the advantages of both Kohlrausch's method and of that described by Mr. EWING and the author in the Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh (vol. xxvii.) The author had submitted his method to various tests, and had found that "polarization" had been eliminated, at least in so far that its effects could not be observed even with the most delicate instruments. The measurement of the resistance of electrolytes is thus rendered as easy as that of metallic conductors.

At the close of the lecture, Mr. MELLISH proposed some questions respecting lightning and the conducting power of the atmosphere, which Dr. McGregor satisfactorily answered.

ORDINARY MEETING, May 14th, 1877.

The PRESIDENT *in the Chair.*

It was announced that THOMAS WESTON, Esq., of the Geological Survey of Canada, had been elected a corresponding member; also, that the Rev. JOHN BURWASH, of Sackville, N. B., had been elected an associate member.

PROFESSOR LAWSON read a paper by Professor How, replete with scientific information, "On the Botany of Nova Scotia." (*See Transactions.*)

FREDERICK ALLISON, Esq., M. A., Chief Meteorological Agent, read his Report for the year 1876. The results of Mr. ALLISON'S services in the work of recording facts and determining laws respecting the meteorology of the Province are certainly of a most useful and valuable character. (*See Transactions.*)

J. T. MELLISH, M. A., communicated a paper by Professor Burwash, "On the Albertite Mines at Belliveau, New Brunswick." (*See Transactions.*)