

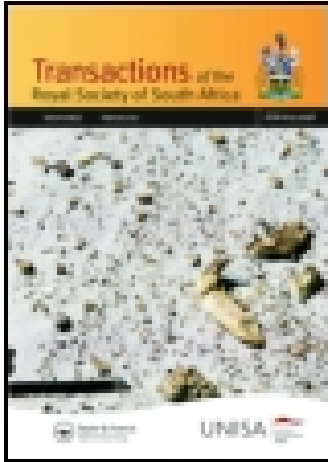
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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS

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MINUTES OF PROCEEDINGS.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

TUESDAY, AUGUST 24, 1886.

VEN. ARCHDEACON LIGHTFOOT, B.D., IN THE CHAIR.

The receipt was announced of a pamphlet by Dr. Emil Cohen (corresponding member of the Society) entitled "Ueber die von den Eingeborenen Süd-Afrikas verwendeten Producte des Mineralreichs" and the thanks of the Society were voted to the donor.

An extract was read from a letter from the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk respecting the tortoises he had sent to England. Two of them were found to be new to science.

Mr. Péringuey said he had found a new tortoise in Namaqualand, and Dr. Marloth had sent him some from Damaraland of which four were undoubtedly new.

Dr. Gibbon's list of South African Mollusca was presented to the Society.

Mr. Finlay announced his discovery of Winnecke's periodical Comet on August 19.

Dr. Shaw exhibited a petrified branch picked up at Hout's Bay, and afterwards read his paper on the "Sand Glaciers in S. Africa." He prefaced it by an account of the sand-dunes on the East Coast of England and West of Scotland.

Mr. J. C. Silberbauer described the petrification of a large forest in California, 1,000 feet above sea level.

Mr. Péringuey said that some sand-glacier formation was to be found at Kalk Bay.

Mr. Sawerthal had seen specimens, like the one exhibited by Dr Shaw, in the Drakensberg.

The thanks of the Society were voted to Dr. Shaw.

Mr. Woods gave an account of the photographic observations to be made at the Royal Observatory on the occasion of the Eclipse of the Sun on August 29.

*Minutes of Proceedings.**Ordinary Monthly Meeting.*

TUESDAY, SEPTEMBER 28, 1886.

MR. F. F. RUTHERFOORD, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Advocate Innes and Mr. T. J. Anderson were duly elected Ordinary members of the Society.

Dr. Gill reported the discovery, by Mr. Finlay, of a Comet on Sunday, Sept. 26, 1886.

Mr. Péringuey reported an important discovery he had made regarding the habits of the *Phylloxera Vastatrix*. He had found that when the weather became cold the false female assumed a leaden hue and became motionless, but revived on being subjected to a high temperature, but did not lay. This was very important considering the difficulty that had been experienced in obtaining a sufficient supply of Bisulphide of Carbon, inasmuch as it shewed that there could have been no spread of the disease during the winter months. He had now a sufficient quantity of Bisulphide of Carbon to commence the spring campaign.

Mr. A. G. Howard then read a paper on "The Value of Cape Point as a Warning Station for Meteorological Changes."

Dr. Gill, Dr. Marloth, and the Rev. G. H. R. Fisk made some remarks on the subject, and the meeting closed with the usual votes of thanks.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 27, 1886.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Advocate Leonard, Q.C., Mr. Advocate P. Molteno, Mr. L. Michell, and Capt. Hewat were duly elected ordinary members of the Society.

The Secretary read Mr. McNellan's paper on "Van Wyk's Vlei Reservoir."

The Rev. G. Stegmann asked whether there was likely to be any danger of the dam silting up. He strongly advocated the making of similar works in the district of Oudtshoorn.

Mr. Merriman was glad to believe the reservoir was a complete success. It had been made at comparatively little cost, holding

35,000 million gallons and costing £20,000. The Cape Irrigation Act had been copied in Victoria with great success, but had failed here from want of combination among the people.

Prof. MacOwan referred to the reports that had been prevalent that the soil at Van Wyk's Vlei was so brack that nothing would grow there, and said that this was far from being the case, and that there was no necessity for planting salt bushes, &c.

Mr. J. C. Silberbauer referred to the dreadful drought that had prevailed in the district about Van Wyk's Vlei for the last four years. He had been informed that the Beaufort Dam was being rapidly silted up.

Mr. Bolus was of opinion that the question of silting up was one of the most important to be considered in the making of dams. He thought similar work should be carried out near populous centres *e.g.*, on the Sunday's, the Vaal, and the Fish Rivers.

Mr. Merriman said that there was a special machine which was very efficacious in clearing out silt.

Dr. Marloth then read a paper on "Nara," a plant which furnishes food for the natives about the neighbourhood of Walfisch Bay.

Mr. Bolus said many efforts had been made in Europe to cultivate this plant—at Kew amongst other places. In each case the seeds germinated and the plant grew two or three inches and then died.

Dr. Marloth replied to a number of questions from various members, and the meeting closed with votes of thanks to Dr. Marloth and Mr. McNellan for their very interesting papers.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 24, 1886.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Mr. Péringuey exhibited a remarkable instance of mimicry in animals—a crab covered with seaweed—which he had received from Colonel Bowker. The sea-weed was trimmed in such a manner as to afford a hiding-place for the crab while he was waiting for his prey.

Dr. Gill then gave an account of the measurement of a base-line in the neighbourhood of Port Elizabeth by the Trigonometrical Survey party, prefacing his account by an explanation of the means taken to obtain a complete survey of the Colony.

Mr. Finlay read a short note on the Orbit of the Comet discovered by him on September 26, 1886.

Dr. Gill said the discovery of this Comet was a very important discovery, and one that would excite much interest in astronomical circles.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 26, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The Rev. B. P. Marchand, B.A., and Mr. James Easton were duly elected ordinary members of the Society.

The following donations of books were announced and the thanks of the Society voted to the donors :

Annual Report of the Department of Mines, New South Wales, 1885.

Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou, 1886, No. 1.

Annalen des K. K. Naturhistorischen Hofmuseums, Band I., No. 2.
Boletin de la Academia Nacional de Ciencias en Cordoba, Vol. VIII., part 4.

Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. IX., parts 2 and 3.

Colonial and Indian Exhibition, 1886—Descriptive Catalogue of a Collection of Economic Minerals of Canada, by the Geological Corps.

List of Donations to the Bodleian Library in 1885.

Report of the Trustees of the Australian Museum for 1885.

Prof. Guthrie exhibited a specimen of quartz from the Cape Flats.

The Rev. G. H. R. Fisk exhibited a snake from Touws River which was new to him and to Mr. Trimen.

Mr. Péringuey thought it a very young specimen, and that it might be an Elaps.

Prof. MacOwan sent for exhibition specimens received from Dr. Duminy of the bark of trees which was said to be an infallible antidote for the poison of snake-bite.

Mr. Péringuey described some experiments he had made on the potency of snake-poison. He did not believe that anyone had ever recovered from the bite of a colubrine snake.

Mr. Bolus suggested that Mr. Péringuey and Dr. Marloth should make some experiments on this alleged antidote and these gentlemen expressed their willingness to do so.

Mr. Finlay gave a short account of the large Comet which was visible in the South-West. He stated that its path showed it was a member of a system of comets which pass very close to the sun, a system which includes the Comets 1843 I., 1880 I., and 1882 II.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 21, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The following presents were announced and the thanks of the Society voted to the donors :

Annuario del Observatorio Astronomico Nacional de Tacubaya.
(Mexico) 1887.

Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou,
1886, No. 3.

Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of New South
Wales, Vol. XIX, 1885.

Notes on Insects apparently of the genus *Margarodes*, Lausd.
Guilding, by R. Trimen, F.R.S.

Mr. Trimen exhibited some ground pearls from ants' nests. Similar shells from the West Indies sixty years ago were sent to the British Museum. Mr. Trimen had secured three specimens of the insect (*coccus*), and it was peculiar as having no mouth. Very little is known about the insect at present.

Mr. Ponder exhibited some microscopic photographs taken by himself.

Mr. Bolus then read his "Notes, Chiefly Botanical, on the country between Delagoa Bay and Barberton."

Dr. Marloth said that several of the plants mentioned by Mr. Bolus had been found by him in Damaraland.

An interesting discussion followed, in which Messrs. Péringuey, Trimen, Merriman, and Dr. Murray took part.

The meeting closed with an unanimous vote of thanks to Mr. Bolus for his paper.

*Minutes of Proceedings.**Ordinary Monthly Meeting.*

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 30, 1897.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The following presents were announced and the thanks of the Society voted to the donors :

From Smithsonian Institution :

Smithsonian Report, 1884, 2 vols.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, Nos. 96-123.

Laws and Regulations of the American Philosophical Society.

Register of Papers published in the Transactions and Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society.

List of Members of the American Philosophical Society from its formation to March 15, 1880.

List of Surviving Members of the American Philosophical Society on March 5, 1886.

Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. VIII., Nos. 1-4, Vol. IX., No. 1.

Bulletin of the California Academy of Sciences, Vol. II., No. 5.

The Rev. G. H. R. Fisk exhibited a snake caught near the Black River—probably a young specimen of the "Cross Snake."

He also read a few notes on the effect of the sting of the scorpion, with especial reference to the alleged death of a girl at Hopefield. He believed that the girl had probably been bitten by some other animal, *e.g.*, a horned adder, and cited several instances of people who had been stung by scorpions without serious result.

Mr. Trimen said that the only other animal besides a snake that could have inflicted the double bite in this case was one of the large spiders.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 4, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The following donations were announced and the thanks of the Society voted to the donors.

Jahrbucher der K.K. Central-Anstalt fur Meteorologie and Erdmagnetismus, 1885.

Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. IX.,
No. 4.

Memoirs of the Literature College, Imperial University of
Japan, No. 1.

Mr. Péringuey exhibited a snake, *Homolosoma lutrix*, with two heads, which was alive when it reached him, and was able to put out two tongues.

Mr. Howard read a paper on "The Storms of South Africa."

The author had found that none of the usual theories proposed would suit the facts as observed at the Cape, and had endeavoured to develop a theory from the results of the 8 a.m. simultaneous meteorological observations.

The Secretary read Dr. Bachmann's letter on the supposed fatal effects of a scorpion's bite.

Mr. Fisk said that all authorities who had studied the subject of scorpions had never discovered any other poison than that connected with the sting in the tail.

Mr. Trimen was of opinion that the evidence in the two cases was very weak : it did not require much knowledge of Zoology to know that the nippers could not be used for inflicting a venomous wound.

Mr. Péringuey said that he had quite recently examined a scorpion with great care, but could find no aperture in the nippers.

Mr. Péringuey gave an account of his investigations on the development of the *Phylloxera vastatrix* at the Cape.

Last year the first winged insect was observed at the end of April, this year in January. A most important question was—would the cold at the Cape be sufficient to cause Phylloxera to hibernate? He found that although the mean temperature did not fall to 47° F., yet there was a semi-hibernation at the Cape.

A vote of thanks to Messrs. Howard and Péringuey closed the proceedings.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, MAY 25, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The following donations were announced and the thanks of the Society voted to the donors :

Victorian Year Book, 1885-86.

Journal of Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. X., 1.

Vierzehnter Bericht des Museums für Volkerkunde in Leipzig, 1886.

Mitteilungen des Vereins für Erdkunde zu Leipzig, 1883, pts. 1, 2, 1884, 1885.

The Rev. G. H. R. Fisk exhibited a snake from Namaqualand (*coronella cana*), of a different colour from the ordinary ones; it was salmon-coloured underneath. He also drew attention to some remarks that had appeared in "Nature" during the present year, that the poison of a snake had no effect upon another snake of the same species, and quoted a case that had come under his personal observation, in which one horned snake (*vipera cornuta*) had bitten another of the same species, with the result that the attacking snake died, apparently from exhaustion, whilst the one bitten remained unaffected.

Dr. Shaw exhibited an otolith of a whale found on Robben Island.

Prof. MacOwan exhibited an African variety of *alectoria jubara* found near Smithfield, O.F.S.

Dr. Beck then read his paper on "Physiology Teaching in Schools."

An exceedingly interesting discussion ensued in which Messrs. Merriman, Fisk, MacOwan, Bolus, and Sir J. H. de Villiers took part. All the speakers with the exception of Mr. Merriman agreed with Dr. Beck as to the advisability of introducing the study of Elementary Physiology into schools. Mr. Merriman was of opinion that more harm than good would be done by teaching young lads a smattering of this subject at an age when they ought to be studying History and Geography.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Beck closed the proceedings.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, JUNE 29, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

Dr. Marloth read a paper on "The Adulteration of Brandy," and in connection with it he exhibited a number of specimens of brandies containing various amounts of fusel oil.

An interesting discussion followed the reading of the paper.

Mr. Easton desired to know whether the brandy containing fusel oil would not fall under the penalties of Act No. 28 of 1883.

Mr. Sivewright enquired whether age would not remove the fusel

oil, and Dr. Marloth explained that this might be the case to a certain limited extent but he had no actual experience of such changes.

Prof. MacOwan gave an account of the brandy distilled by Messrs. Parkes Brothers of Wheatlands in the Graaff-Reinet district. He thought it probable that the new oak casks in which the brandy was put absorbed some of the alcohol of the *amyl* series, and thus improved its quality.

The Rev. G. H. R. Fisk referred to the connection of the low-class brandies with the prevalence of crime, and thought the Legislature should take steps in the direction pointed out by Dr. Marloth.

A vote of thanks was then conveyed to the latter gentleman for his interesting paper.

Ordinary Monthly Meeting.

WEDNESDAY, JULY 27, 1887.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The following books were announced as having been presented to the Society and the thanks of the Society were voted to the donors :

Journal of the Cincinnati Society of Natural History, Vol. X., 2.
Meteorologische Beobachtungen am Met. Obs. der Landwirtschaftlichen Akademie bei Moskau.

Bulletin de la Société Impériale des Naturalistes de Moscou, 1886 No. 4 and 1887 No. 1.

Dr. J. A. Ross was elected an ordinary member of the Society.

Dr. Gill read his lecture on "The Applications of Photography in Astronomy." In the course of it he gave an account of the proceedings of the Photographic Conference held at Paris in April last, and the resolutions passed by the large body of astronomers there assembled with reference to the construction of Stellar Charts.

The Hon. C. A. Smith remarked that a wide field for investigation was opened with respect to the photographic magnitudes of stars as compared with telescopic magnitudes ; and that it would be interesting to take a photograph of the Coal-sack with very long exposure.

Dr. Atherstone called attention to the date as being the Jubilee of Telegraphy. Fifty years ago he was present at the Academy of Sciences, Paris, when Daguerre brought forward his discoveries in Photography, and Morse his Telegraphic system.

A vote of thanks to Dr. Gill closed the proceedings.

*Minutes of Proceedings.**Annual General Meeting.*

WEDNESDAY, AUGUST 17, 1987.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S., PRESIDENT, IN THE CHAIR.

The reports of the Secretary and Treasurer were read and adopted.

The Members present proceeded to the election of President and Council for the ensuing year, with the following result :—

President : MR. W. H. FINLAY, M.A., F.R.A.S.

Members of Council : MR. J. H. M. BECK, M.B.

MR. H. BOLUS, F.L.S.

MR. D. GILL, LL.D., F.R.S., F.R.A.S.

PROF. GUTHRIE, LL.B.

MR. R. MARLOTH, M.A., PH.D.

HON. J. X. MERRIMAN, M.L.A.

PROF. MACOWAN, B.A., F.L.S.

MR. L. PERINGUEY, F.Z.S.

HON. C. A. SMITH, M.A.

MR. R. TRIMEN, F.R.S., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

Mr. Bolus delivered the Presidential address on "The Flora of the Cape Peninsula."