

appartenant au pays dans lequel doit avoir lieu la prochaine session du Congrès. Le nom des lauréats sera proclamé en séance solennelle; il sera transmis sans délai au président de la Société des amis des sciences naturelles.

Enfin, il a été décidé que la langue française serait seule admise pour toutes les affaires du Congrès, notamment pour la correspondance et pour les travaux manuscrits ou imprimés.

2. Linnean Society of New South Wales.

July 27th, 1892. — 1) Observations on the poisonous constituents of the Venom of the Australian Black Snake (*Pseudechis porphyriacus*). By C. J. Martin, M.B., B.Sc., Lond., Demonstrator of Physiology in the University of Sydney, late Demonstrator of Physiology, King's College, London. (Communicated by J. J. Fletcher.) The autor gives an account of his investigation of the venom of the black snake with regard to the presence of albumose. The poison from two black snakes was placed under absolute alcohol for three months, by which means all the proteids were precipitated. From the alcohol used (which was free from proteid) a volatile organic acid was separated. Neither the alcoholic extract nor the acid possessed any toxic properties. A portion of the coagulated proteid was soluble in 0,7 % salt solution, and the solution so obtained was very virulent, and when injected into the veins of a small animal caused death with the usual symptoms of snake poisoning. From this solution two albumoses were separated, which were shown to be the bodies to which the solution owed its poisonous power. — 2) On gall-making *Buprestidae*. By W. W. Froggatt. This paper gives an account of the gall-like excrescences formed by three species of *Ethon*, namely by *E. affine*, L. and G., on the stems of *Pultenaea stipularis*, and by *E. corpulentum* and *E. marmoreum* on the roots of *Dillwynia ericifolia*. — 3) On the Pliocene Mollusca of New Zealand. By Professor F. W. Hutton, F.G.S., Hon. Mem. L.S.N.S.W. This paper, which will appear in the forthcoming Macleay Memorial Volume, gives a complete list of the Mollusca hitherto met with in the Pliocene fossiliferous beds of New Zealand. Such beds have been found only in the southern and eastern parts of the North Island. About 64 per cent. of the Pliocene Mollusca are also found in Miocene rocks, but the Pliocene fauna is well characterised firstly by the presence of the genera *Trophon*, *Columbella*, *Turricula*, and *Mytilicarda*, by the absence of certain genera present in Miocene strata, and thirdly by the small size of sundry species common to both formations. From the recent fauna, that of the Pliocene is distinguished by the presence of from 23—37 per cent. of extinct species, and of a number of genera no representatives of which up to the present time are known to inhabit New Zealand seas. The Pliocene fauna, therefore, seems to be the remains of an earlier fauna disappearing rapidly before the conquering host of the recent fauna, which had invaded New Zealand some time previously. — 4) Contributions to our Knowledge of *Ceratodus*. Part I. The Blood Vessels. By W. Baldwin Spencer, M.A., Professor of Biology in the University of Melbourne. (Communicated by Professor Haswell.) — The author finds that the arterial system of *Ceratodus* in certain respects shows a resemblance to that of

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