

quadrupeds and birds are concerned) wholly ceases in the extreme north, and over the vast ice fields no moving thing is visible. Of the polar waters, on the other hand, it may be affirmed that they everywhere abound in minute examples of animal organisms, some of which have been hitherto pronounced by naturalists to be Mediterranean or even equatorial species.

It is apparent that warm and cold currents so affect and modify submarine life as to complicate very much the problems with which the palæontologist deals. As the late Dr. Carpenter long ago pointed out, Arctic shells have been found as far south as Gibraltar, a clear proof that the glacial temperature exists there beneath the waves without making any difference in the terrestrial climate. *Vice versa* we find Tropical species in Arctic waters. The late Sir William Dawson once wrote to Dr. Carpenter that the latter's accounts of the temperature of the deep-sea and its effect upon animal life while they tended to modify geological theory, explained facts otherwise difficult to interpret, especially the evidences of glacial conditions in periods when such conditions were not regarded as existing. "I am quite prepared," wrote Sir William, "to accept the conclusion that glacial beds may have been formed in any latitude and at any geological period."

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### WINTER LECTURES.

The Soirée Committee are now preparing the programme for the series of winter lectures, and will be obliged if any members who wish to read papers, or who have short notes of interest to communicate at any of the meetings, will at once send in their titles, and at the same time state at what date they would wish to present their papers. This information may be sent to Dr. R. Bell, F.R.S., the chairman of the Soirée Committee, Dr. H. M. Ami, F.R.S.C., or any member of the Council. It is probable that there will be a *Conversazione* or two, and six or seven Lecture nights. From the papers which have been already promised, the coming season promises to be one of exceptional interest. It is hoped that the first meeting will be held early in December. All titles of papers must therefore be in the hands of the Committee at the latest by the 15th November.