

MOOSE WITH ELK ANTLERS.

(With one plate.)

By the REV. WM. A. BURMAN, Winnipeg.

The photograph accompanying these notes shows two moose heads. The normal moose antlers are to illustrate the very curious variation in the other pair, which are almost typical elk antlers.

The moose thus curiously distinguished was killed some weeks ago in the country north of Beausejour, Man., and about 60 miles north-east from Winnipeg. The head is now in the possession of Mr. Alexander Calder, taxidermist, Main street, Winnipeg, to whose courtesy I am indebted for the photograph and notes. The measurements are as follows :—

Length of head from mouth to crown	30 in.
Round the head at base of antlers	39 in.
Round the nose	24 in.
Spread of antler prongs	50 in.
Length of longest prongs from base	40 in.
Circumference of antler at base	6½ in.

It would be interesting to know if such freaks as this are common. If not, then what is their significance? I have heard of a case in the far north where a moose had one antler as in this case, the other of normal shape. Does the health of an animal influence these growths? Or would environment affect them? Is it not possible that some significance, not yet discovered, lies hidden in the so-called "freaks" of nature such as this? Personally, I should be glad to know what others can tell about similar cases to the one here figured.

A RAT AS AN ENTOMOLOGIST.—On going to a street electric light on the evening of May 25th to collect insects, I was surprised to see a common rat busily engaged in the grass below catching and eating June Beetles (*Lachnosterna*).

J. FLETCHER.