

Ganong. The zoological report shows considerable activity in the study of birds, fishes and insects of the Province. Other items are a meteorological abstract for 1897, mean sea level at St. John, by E. T. P. Shewen, and reports of committees.

MOULDING MARBLE UNDER PRESSURE.—Experiments have been carried on at McGill University, Montreal, under the direction of Professor Adams, of the Faculty of Arts, and Professor Nicholson, of the Faculty of Applied Science, which show that marble may, under certain conditions, be moulded like clay. Without going into technical details, the experiments may be said to consist of placing miniature columns of pure Carrara marble, or granite, in sheaths of iron, and submitting them to long-continued but gradual pressure, with the result that the marble shortens and expands laterally, so as to swell the iron sheath. The iron is then cut away ; the marble is altered greatly in shape, but remains as solid and brittle as before. The difference between the deformed marble and the original rock is that the former is said to have a dead white colour, the sparkling cleavage faces of calcite being no longer visible. Although not quite so hard as the original, it is still firm and compact, especially when its deformation has been carried out slowly. No accurate measurements as to its strength have been received, but it was found to withstand a very sharp blow, and fragments of it weighing ten grammes, were allowed to fall from a height of 8ft. on to a wooden platform, from which they rebounded without breaking. Thin sections of the deformed marble when examined under the microscope showed that the calcite individuals composing the rock had in many cases been twisted and flattened. It is stated that the moulded marble when microscopically examined presented many striking resemblances to certain natural rocks whose peculiar cleavage it has hitherto been difficult to explain. But the recent experiments at McGill show that however brittle a rock may seem to be it is in reality a plastic substance capable of flowing into new shapes as surely as putty or dough.