

"Melanic varieties, as they are termed," says Beddard, "often occur on islands and other situations where the climate is moist as well as warm." On the other hand, in such a country as New Zealand, white, or what are called albino, varieties of birds, and many living forms, are said to be frequent owing to very dry seasons or periods of drought, and to the presence of snow on the lofty ranges of mountains, which for height and grand scenic features resemble our own Pacific coast mountains. The whitening process in our Northern Hare (*Lepus americanus*, Erxl.) has been carefully studied, and it has been proved that the summer coat actually bleaches, but the change is accompanied by a growth of new hair, so that the coat is thicker than in summer and the hairs are longer. The outer border of the ears remains black, but the rest of the fur becomes pure white, the blanching successively passing from the black tip of each hair down the reddish middle part to the basal leaden-colored part. The hairs of the forehead and shoulders are the last to change and a few long black hairs are always present above and below the eyes and extend backwards. One observer, Mr. Welch, tells us that the entire change occupies about three months, from early in October till late in December, but further north, in the latitude of Quebec, it is said to be, usually, early in November, and the whitening is also more rapidly accomplished. Sir John Ross observed a lemming on board his vessel change color in a week, in February. Whether the assumption of a white winter coat is due to Arctic environment, or to natural selection and heredity (the white examples surviving when other examples were more readily seen by enemies and exterminated), it is not necessary here to discuss. The brown musk-ox, the black raven, the sable and other northern animals do not change, and thus the matter is a complicated one. But the term albino should not be applied to forms which are white normally, or turn white seasonally as an established feature in their life; but should apply rather to the somewhat erratic and abnormal cases of whiteness and lack of normal coloration due to some congenital cause, apparently allied to a diseased or pathological condition.

An extremely rare and interesting case of this true albinism was discovered this season (1913) at the St. Andrew's Biological Station, New Brunswick. A specimen of the common sea-urchin (*Strongylocentrotus drobrachiensis*) of our Atlantic shores, over three inches in diameter, instead of exhibiting the reddish purple and variegated colors of typical specimens, was of the purest chalk-white, the plates of the somewhat depressed globular test or shell, as well as the crowded sharp-pointed moveable spines, being entirely destitute of color. Even the eye spots,