

sharks, mackerel, etc., do not possess a swim-bladder, hence it is not essential for flotation. Fresh-water suckers, cat-fishes, etc., have a swim-bladder, and are not exceptionally buoyant. If it is a barometer, why do so many species not possess it, while if it is of use in some cases in connection with voice, it must be noted that most fishes possessing a swim-bladder are voiceless, and again as an aid in hearing, it is no doubt of utility in rare cases, but such is not its common purpose. The features of the organ in young larval fishes indicate a glandular character and it may be a survival of a gland attached to the digestive system, whose utility has gone. In most cases pure aerated blood supplies the swim-bladder, and it cannot be respiratory excepting in rare instances, and being dorsal it is difficult to see how it can be homologous, as many authorities claim, with the ventrally placed lungs of higher vertebrates. Professor Prince also stated that while oxygen was often found in the swim-bladder, that organ frequently appeared to be filled with nitrogen, an element associated in many animals with the hibernating habit, or with change of food.

At the second meeting of the branch, held on the 22nd May, 1905, besides the chairman, Prof. Prince, there were present Professor Macoun, and Messrs. Lemieux, Baldwin, Campbell, and Halkett. Mr. Campbell showed some living specimens of branchiate larvæ, which appeared to be those of *Amblystoma*, and Mr. Lemieux brought a single antler of the Virginian Deer, which had been picked up beside a lake in the province of Quebec, soon after it had been shed. It was a fine example, and of unusual interest owing to the fact that shed antlers are very rarely found. The members present discussed the remarkable phenomenon, the annual shedding of deers' horns, the massive antlers of the moose being specially mentioned as surprising structures to grow in a single season, and then be cast away. Mr. Halkett shewed a specimen of the dor-mouse (*Eutamias rutilus*), which he caught with the hand, a year or two ago, at Madawaska, in the Nippissing district, and also a specimen of a bat (*Vespertilio subulatus*) which was found alive in the Fisheries Museum, and which is one of several specimens found there; and a scheme was discussed, led by Prof. Macoun, for securing specimens of small mammals in the vicinity of Ottawa. Small traps were described, which if set