

that the erosion so effected may be explained on the basis of Mr. Rainoy's observations on molecular coalescence; (3) that in contact with glycerine and carbonate of potash, ivory and mother of pearl may be eroded, although as far as can be seen, no spherules of carbonate of lime are formed.

The first two conclusions are believed to be applicable to the erosion by ant mud, as observed by Dr. Bidie, while the third is held to have a much wider application, explaining by "Molecular disintegration," the formation of the Haversian spaces in bone; the excavation of shell surfaces to which Polyzoa are attached; the boring of Molluscous shells by sponges and other similar erosions. —*Journal of the Royal Mining Society*, Ser. 2nd, V. 761.

PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATURAL HISTORY SOCIETY.

The *First Monthly Meeting* of the Session of 1885-86 was held on Monday evening, October 26th, 1885, the President, Sir William Dawson, being in the chair.

The minutes of the last Council Meeting were read, and the following names proposed for membership, viz., Messrs. James M. Jack, W. C. Van Horne, P. A. Peterson, R. W. Boodie, Robert Mackay, Samuel Finlay, James McShane, M.P.P., Edward Radford and A. H. Sims.

Prof. Penhallow reported that there had been several important additions to the list of Exchanges since the regular issue had been resumed of the Society's quarterly magazine, the *CANADIAN RECORD OF SCIENCE*. Mr. A. H. Mason, Honorary Curator, reported that, during the recess, the following additions to the Museum had been made, through the kindness of Mr. J. H. R. Molson, viz., the Teeth of *Carcharodon*, the Teeth of *Oxyrhina*, and the Vertebrae of Fishes (Eocene), found in the Phosphate beds near Charlestown, South Carolina; also the Egg of an Alligator from Jacksonville, Florida. Sir William Dawson offered some remarks upon the specimens presented, pointing out many peculiar features connected with them.

Mr. Mason called attention to the fact, that the President, Sir William Dawson, had been appointed to preside at the next meeting of the British Association, to take place at Birmingham in 1886, and considered it to be a most distinguished honor, in which we should all take much pride, as it was a position to which only the most notable men of Science were elected.

Prof. Penhallow then read a paper on "The Origin of the Ainos and their final Settlement and Distribution in Japan." After a vote of thanks to the lecturer, it was resolved that