

Undoubtedly the new building will give an impetus to the Society in the prosecution of the objects which it has in view; for, until now, the library accommodation has been very inadequate, and neither reading nor lecture room was commodious or comfortable. The aims of the Society are not so generally known as they ought to be, or a more lively interest would be taken in its proceedings. First among these is the advancement of science, and in fact the Canadian Institute discharges for Ontario the same function that the Royal Society does for England, although on a much smaller scale. Its machinery is the same; weekly meetings for reading, and afterwards discussing scientific papers, are held; a journal (\*) of the proceedings is issued quarterly, and a library and reading-room are provided for the accommodation of members. The journal is exchanged for the published transactions of learned societies all over the world, so that the periodical table, furnished, as it is, with reviews and magazines, forms a source of reference equalled by few cities on the continent.

The Society must bring itself, however, into closer relationship with the people, and this cannot be done better than by organizing courses of popular lectures similar to those which are delivered at the Royal Institution, and which have done so much for promoting scientific knowledge among the Londoners.

At a late meeting of German naturalists it was resolved to ask Government aid to found two new zoological stations in the German Ocean, similar to that which has been so ably conducted as a private enterprise by Dr. Anton Dohrn at Naples. The places selected are Kiel and Heligoland, and it was proposed that England should be asked to take part in the establishment of that at the latter place. It is to be hoped that these will meet with more encouragement than the Anderson School of Natural History, which was in working order for a short time on Penikese Island, but which has now become defunct. Surely there are naturalists enough on the continent to render such an institution imperative; it is rather an anomaly that Harvard has to reserve one of the Naples tables for its young zoologists; if the Penikese station were revived this would hardly be necessary. The policy of the German Imperial Government has been so frequently directed to the encouragement of scientific research, that the project for the new European stations is not likely to be quashed for want of funds with which to start them.

In a paper on the mammals of Turkestan (†) Dr. Severtzoff discusses the affinities of the Persian deer (*Cervus maral*) with our Wapiti (*Cervus canadensis*.) He arrives at the conclusion that the animals are not specifically different, although the Canadian animal, unlike the Persian, does not change its coat during summer. He proposes the abolition of the local specific title, and the substitution of the specific name Wapiti or Maral for both.

It is sometimes thought that crystallized nitro-glycerine is more sensitive to shocks than the liquid substance. That this is not true has been demonstrated by M. Beckerhinn (§), whose experiments prove that if a given weight has to fall through a distance  $\delta$  before it explodes the liquid substance,

\* The Canadian Journal—Copp, Clark & Co.

† Am. Mag. Nat. Hist. Nov.

‡ Chem. Cent. Blatt, pp. 449 and 697, 1876.