

REPORT OF THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1901.

As has been frequently pointed out in previous reports of the Zoological Branch of the Club, it is difficult to present new matter annually in the field of local Zoology. Indeed it is hardly to be expected that many additions to the Vertebrate fauna, excepting in the lower orders, such as fishes, reptiles, &c., can be recorded in the Ottawa district. During the year, however, some most interesting facts have been placed on record by various members of the club, which are worthy of special notice.

These notes have been published in the OTTAWA NATURALIST, and include the following papers among others more particularly referred to below. "Rattlesnakes and Scorpions," by J. R. Anderson; "On the Oviposition of the Mud Turtle," by Mailes Cowley; and "Alligators and Turtles as Pets," by W. S. Odell. Mr. Odell has for some time been studying Rhizopods and will contribute a paper on them to an early number of THE NATURALIST.

Mr. Andrew Halkett has continued his diligent researches in various interesting directions. The most important study he has made, perhaps being observations on the remarkable Dipnoid *Protopterus annectens*, of which two specimens were received at the Fisheries Museum by the kindness of Prof. H. O. Forbes, of Liverpool, England, with whom Mr. Halkett had interesting interviews early last year. One of the specimens was consigned to Prof. Ramsay Wright, Toronto University, and both were in a state of hibernation inclosed in their curious clay capsules. Unfortunately, both proved to have not survived when the capsules were carefully dissolved in Ottawa and Toronto. Mr. Halkett published a detailed account of the specimen in the November number of the OTTAWA NATURALIST. Mr. Halkett has also recently secured quite a number of Bow-fin (*Amia calva*) and Gar-pike (*Lepidosteus*) from the Bay of Quinte, and preserved them in formaline, which prevents the disappearance of the natural colours of fishes. Both species present under these conditions a very marked colour pattern. Few naturalists, familiar only with museum specimens of these fishes preserved in alcohol, have any idea of their really striking coloration. A Sturgeon (*Accipenser*) 5 feet long was also