

## NATURAL HISTORY NOTES.

Another Natural History Club has been formed under the auspices of the Pictou Academy Natural Science Association to be known as the "Pictou Academy Ornithological Club." Honorary President, James McKinlay, Esq; Sec'y-Treas., Professor H McInnes; Taxidermist, Mr. Isaac Harris. The objects of the club are to study the habits and migrations of our birds and to mount a complete set of Nova Scotian birds for the museum of the Academy. Principal McKay is out in the local papers asking for the co operation of the public. Speed all such work.

From the research of the German commission on the Asiatic cholera in Egypt, continued later in Calcutta. India, it is considered that the vegetable nature of the cause of this terrible disease has been proved. Koch is the leading spirit of the commission. The cause of the disease is a microscopic alga, belonging to the Bacteria Family and to the genus *bacillus*.

*Nature* contains a letter stating that in the prairies of the Canadian North-West as well as in Kansas, Indian Territory, Idaho and Washington Territory there are no earth worms.

Tromholt of Norway, found the average height of eighteen measurements of the *aurora borealis* to be about 113 kilometers. Newton found by the same method the height to be about 130 miles or 209 kilometers.

"Y-dizi," is the name of a plant indigenous to Tonquin which is entirely new to science and superior as a fever plant to the eucalyptus. It grows to a height of about six feet, and is not only a nutritious plant, but it destroys miasma and purifies stagnant water.

Out of the 700 species of *solanum*... known to botanists six produce tubers, but only the common potato *solanum tuberosum* has been cultivated extensively. Experiments are now being made

with other species, one of which yielded in one year 600 tubers and the principal stems were over seven feet long.

A new mineral for which the temporary name of *eucoclasite* is suggested is reported by the American Naturalist as having been found at Wakefield, Ontario. It occurs in white or grayish, white square crystals, sometimes an inch in breadth, and often glazed on the outside. They are nearly square prisms with truncated corners, the general appearance being that of a partly altered scapolite.

A new locality for topaz has been found near Pike's Peak.

Lake Erie and the Niagara have thirty-seven different marketable kinds of fish.

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 Canadian Postal College of the Natural Sciences.

## SECRETARY'S REPORT.—THE NEW NAME.

The selection of a new name for our Society has for some months been a subject of discussion among the directors and others interested in the work. The addition of new directors from time to time from the other Provinces of Canada and the spread of our membership throughout those Provinces seemed to make it advisable that a name broader, at least *national*, in its significance should be adopted. Many names were proposed and discussed, but out of the chaos the one appearing above was, by common consent, selected as the most appropriate.

Some interesting changes will also be made in the Society without departing from the original plan, the aim being to make the work more thorough and the instruction and direction more efficient. Indeed the institution may be said to be now passing through a transition stage and to be about entering upon an enlarged sphere of usefulness. We cannot refrain from congratulating those Dir-