

REPORT OF "THE ZOOLOGICAL BRANCH, 1907.

To the Council of the Ottawa Field Naturalists' Club:—

In presenting the Report of this Branch of the Club's work for 1907 your leaders have to announce that the interest manifest in the study of zoology, as evidenced at the Club's excursions and in the contributions published in *THE OTTAWA NATURALIST*, shews no signs of diminution. In the first place the members of the Branch feel bound to record their pleasure at the erection of a splendid new zoological station by the Dominion Government at St. Andrew's, N.B., and the publication in connection therewith of a scientific report which includes a number of valuable papers on Marine Biology, etc., by eminent Canadian Zoologists. A new station of a similar character is now being completed at Departure Bay on the British Columbia coast in the vicinity of one of the richest marine zoological grounds in the Pacific waters—perhaps one of the richest in the world. Prominence was given to these marine researches at the May meeting of the Royal Society, when Professor Prince, one of our leaders, gave an address on Canadian Marine Biology, and zoological subjects were dealt with in a number of able papers. The subject of abnormalities in various animals was discussed at the same meeting, and in connection therewith it may be stated that Professor Prince has secured a remarkable specimen of a small sturgeon in which the long and powerful tail is absent, and in the absence of a true caudal member the anal fin has grown round the blunt terminal stump and acts vicariously as a tail.

The same gentleman obtained a specimen of *Helix* which had evidently taken up a permanent position in a niche in the smooth bark of a wild cherry tree. That the snail moved a little was plain from a small patch of dried glistening mucus below the niche; but as the smooth cuticle of the tree had apparently grown over the shell of the living animal, it appeared as a small protuberance. The patch of mucus alone revealed the fact that the small rounded prominence like a button was the shell of a living snail. If the marine crabs like *Inachus* are protected by overgrowths of sea-weeds on their backs, this land *Helix* in the case mentioned was as effectually protected. Professor Sydney Hickson says: "If the plants be artificially scraped off the crab will go in search of fresh ones . . . and then deliberately decorate the carapace with them as before. There are some mollusks that artificially decorate themselves with little shells and other objects in such manner as to completely hide their general form. . . . In both these cases it is clear that the reason of the phenomena described is that of affording a covering