

litters of this blue variety of the Arctic fox there frequently occur pure white specimens, but a whole litter of white cubs has not been recorded. Some interesting figures in a recent report of the Conservation Commission may be here referred to. Thus on St. George Island (Pribyloff Islands), in a total of 772 so-called blue foxes killed in 1897, no less than 40 were white. In 1898, 18 were white in a total of 885 foxes, but in 1903 only 15 were white, out of 1,061 foxes taken, and in 1907-8, out of a total of 1,005 only 8 were white, indeed, only 3 were pure white, the others were bluish white. These pale or white specimens are not valued, and every effort is made to exterminate them and prevent the increase of a white variety. The ordinary variety of dirty brownish colored Arctic fox, which turns pure snow-white in winter, though recently fashionable, was not many years ago regarded with contempt by fur dealers, and Indian trappers were usually "called down" severely for taking the trouble to bring such little-valued pelts to Edmonton and other fur-receiving centres in the North-west.

White deer, like white house-sparrows, have not unfrequently been reported, but whether such are true albinos with pink eyes is not recorded. A red deer of almost snowy whiteness was reported up the Gatineau region some years ago. A white form of the Scottish red deer has been established as a distinct variety, and in Welbeck Park, Langley Park, near Slough, Windsor, and Woburn Castle, in England, there are herds of cream-colored or white deer, believed to be originally of German origin, though the Duke of Portland has regarded them as a Danish variety. It is interesting to note that a creamy or white colored variety of the black bear was discovered not many years since in British Columbia, north of Rivers Inlet, and at the head-waters of the Skeena River and at other points. This small bear has been called "*Ursus Kermodei*" by Hornaday, who first described it.

The whole subject of albinism is deserving of investigation, but it may be clearly stated that white animals, whose eyes are dark, or the tips of the ears, the tail, tip of the nose, etc., are black, are really not albinos, for albinism in mammals involves pink eyes, pink nose, and a general absence of pigment.

MEETING OF THE BOTANICAL BRANCH.

November 8th, 1913, at the residence of Mr. R. B. Whyte. Owing to the rainy weather only a small number of members were present.