

stead have found a dam amongst the wild species. The variability of the domestic sheep of the world is more marked. The Africander fat-tailed sheep carries a tail which is frequently found to weigh 50 pounds, trails on the ground, and is supported by the breeder with a contrivance on little wheels. It is regarded as a delicacy, and is an important item in the mutton. On the other hand, there is a breed of sheep in Central Asia with a mere rudimentary tail, the fat natural to this part having accumulated on each side of the haunches in large protuberances as if like the camel's hump they were nature's store against future famine, which man takes advantage of and breeds out. Darwin notices the Angola variety of the long-tailed race which has similarly curious growths of humpy fat in the region of the head. The multiplicity of varieties of the sheep and their extremes of peculiarity render the veriest reference to specially interesting features out of the question in these notes. There are in the museums of the world collections of mediaeval, modern, and wild stocks, and in some of the European zoological collections a few living specimens. In the museums may also be seen fossilized remains which carry us back to the very early geological times in the earth's history. Although the ancestry of the horse may be definitely traced to the most ancient primeval epochs, that of the sheep still remains in obscurity. But it is known that this important domestic animal appeared wild in the tertiary epoch in company with the horse, camel, ox, hog and elephant. This takes us back to about 2,500,000 years ago. And according to authorities on the subject, there is ample evidence that in the quartermary epoch of the earth's geological age man had acquired some of the arts of agriculture. He had domesticated the docile sheep, and afterwards the ox, the cat, the dog, and the fowl. He had learned to dress hides, and had accomplished primitive methods of weaving. And this period is fixed as variously approximating 500,000 years ago.

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#### BEQUEST TO O.F.N.C.

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The Ottawa Field-Naturalists' Club is pleased to acknowledge a bequest of \$100 by the will of the late John Charles Kearns. The late Mr. Kearns was a member of the Club for many years, and always took a very keen interest in its work.

The Council, at a recent meeting, decided to set this bequest aside as an endowment fund, the interest from which could be offered as an annual prize bearing the name of the donor.

G. LEL.