

After which, Mr. Whiteaves read the following :

REPORT OF THE SCIENTIFIC CURATOR.

Since the last annual meeting, by the resignation of the late Mr. Hunter, there was no officer residing on the premises, until Mr. Passmore arrived on the 19th of September last.

Owing to the protracted ill health of our late deeply regretted taxidermist, in the summer, it was found that moths were making havoc among the birds and mammals. The case being urgent, Mr. Craig was called in, and we did our best to remedy the evil. On Mr. Passmore's arrival, I called his attention to this circumstance, and he lost no time in making a searching examination into all the cases, and did all that could be done in the way of applying the necessary remedies. Mr. Passmore and I have also studied closely our series of Canadian birds, have weeded out several specimens which we have good reason to suppose are not American examples at all, and have rectified some errors in the previous nomenclature. The series is now in good order, and none but authentic specimens are included in that part of our collection. In the department of mammalia but one new species has been added, viz., a noble example of the grizzly bear of the Rocky Mountains.

In ornithology, however, we have made much more progress. Mr. A. Jowitt has given us 39 specimens of English birds, Major G. E. Bulger 7 rare exotic species, but we have only added 12 specimens to our collection of Canadian birds. We have not to go far for a reason for this. When Mr. Passmore arrived, ornithologists here thought that now we had another active and able naturalist resident on the premises, our collection of birds and mammals would rapidly increase. But by an act recently passed in the local legislature for the Province of Quebec, no person, for any purpose whatever, may shoot small birds. A special application has been made to the Minister of Agriculture of the Province of Quebec for a license to enable Mr. Passmore to procure birds, &c., for this museum, which has been positively refused. As Prof. Orton has lately shewn, to please the tastes of the fair votaries of fashion, the rarest of the South American humming birds are exterminated with impunity, and will soon be as extinct as the Dodo or the Moa. To come nearer home, thousands of small birds are indiscriminately shot every year, in Ontario, in shooting matches; but in Quebec, through ill-advised legislation, the philosophic study of ornithology has received its death-blow.