

## NATURE LESSONS.

## THE SCHOOL-BOY BOY ZOOLOGIST IN ATLANTIC CANADA.

## I

It is winter. We cannot net the butterfly nor trap the night-loving moth. The streams and ponds are frozen over, and their denizens have no fear of the boy whose steel shod feet or flattened noses move in tangents to the opposite and upper surface of the ice. Let us then look at our native animals which claim more of kinship with ourselves; animals which like ourselves have a framework of substantial bone mineralized with calcium phosphate, and surrounded with plump muscles of flesh which by their orderly and separate contractions, moves them whatever way desired. All four-limbed, though often so different. All with jointed back-bones from which ribs run out in front in order to form a capacious cavity in which the animal unceasingly stows away what it considers the good things of this life, to enable it to grow, and work, and fight if necessary. All with jointed back-bones on the opposite of which a smaller cavity is formed enclosing the spinal cord, which at one end becomes so large as to require a great bony case called a skull, to cover it in. Two eyes, and two ears, and two nostrils open out on the surface of this brain box, so that the brain can hear, see and smell. All lung breathers, warm blooded and red blooded are these animals too. They bring forth their young and feed them first on milk which is provided naturally by the parent. Were their bodies dissected many other similarites in their make-up would be seen. And they are all covered with a skin which when it grows any covering it is always hair, fine or coarse, but never feathers, scales, or anything else than hair.

Here they are, all of them known to be in Nova Scotia, New Brunswick or Prince Edward Island. They are called *Mammals*, from a Latin word *mammæ* which means "milk-bearing teats." But not only has every animal in our list teats, but a hair-bearing skin and every other point mentioned above, and many more.

## Mammals of Atlantic Canada.

## ORDER I. Family I (1) Man.

## ORDER II. THE FLESH-EATERS.

*Cat Family*; (2) Cat, (3) Panther, (only in N. B.), (4) Wild Cat, (5) Lynx.

*Dog Family*; (6) Dog, (7) Wolf, (8) Fox.

*Weasel Family*; (9) Least Weasel, (10) Common Weasel, (11) Mink, (12) Black Cat (Pekan), (13) Pine Martin (Sable), (14) Wolverine, (only in N. B.), (15) Skunk, (16) Otter.

*Bear Family*; (17) Brown Bear.

*Raccoon Family*; (18) Raccoon.

*Seal Family*; (19) Harbor Seal, (20) Hooded Seal, (21) Harp Seal.

## ORDER III. THE HOOFED MAMMALS.

*Pig Family*; (22) Pig.

*Cattle Family*; (23) Ox, (24) Sheep, (25) Goat.

*Horse Family*; (26) Horse, (27) Ass.

*Deer Family*; (28) Reindeer, (29) Moose, (30) Virginian Deer.

## ORDER IV. WHALE-LIKE MAMMALS.

Three or four families, including Dolphins, Porpoises, and several species of Whales, in all perhaps 20 species of Cetaceans, as they are called, have been observed off or on our Atlantic Coast. All these are really cattle adapted to live in the sea. They are not fish although they have the external form of fish. Perhaps we need not give their names here.

## ORDER V. THE BATS.

*Bat Family*; (51) Hoary Bat, (52) Red Bat, (N. B. only), (53) Little Brown Bat.

## ORDER VI. THE INSECT-EATERS.

*Mole Family*; (54) Star-nosed Mole, (55) Hairy Tailed Mole, (N. B. only), (56) Common Mole.

*Shrew Family*; (57) Little Shrew, (58) Narrow-Headed Shrew, (in N. S.), (59) Mole Shrew, (60) Hoy's Shrew (in N. S.), (61) Cooper's Shrew (in N. B.), (62) Common Shrew, (63) Forster's Shrew, (N. S.), (64) Water Shrew, (N. S.)

## ORDER VII. THE GNAWERS.

*Squirrel Family*; (65) Flying Squirrel, (66) Gray Squirrel, (N. B.), (67) Red Squirrel, (68) Ground Squirrel, (69) Wood Chuck.

*Beaver Family*; (70) the Beaver.

*Mouse Family*; (71) Common White Footed Mouse, (72) Long-Eared Mouse, (73) Meadow Mouse, (74) Common House Mouse, (75) Brown Rat, (76) Musk-rat.

*Jumping Mouse Family*; (77) Common Jumping Mouse, (78) Rare Jumping Mouse, (N. B.)

*Porcupine Family*; (79) Canada Porcupine.

*Hare Family*; (80) American Rabbit.

How many of these eighty have you heard of? How many have you seen? How many may be found in your neighborhood?

## LESSONS ON MINERALS.

For the information of our readers we give the following extract from a little book, "Thirty-six Observation Lessons on Common Minerals," by Henry Lincoln Clapp, Master of George Putnam School, Boston, Mass. The author acknowledges obligations to Prof. Frank Eaton, of the Nova Scotia Normal school.