

The most valuable parts of the Gesner and Institute Museum are the ethnological collections now in the lecture hall of the Natural History Society, and the collection of minerals from the Jurassic Trap of Nova Scotia, made by Dr. Gesner. The collection of birds and mammals has been superseded in importance by that of the Natural History Society. The minerals are kept in a room called the "Gesner Museum."

*The Albert Mine Case.* Early in the "forties" a peculiar mineral was discovered near Hillsboro in Albert County, N. B., which was claimed to be coal, and a license was obtained to mine it. Gesner contended that it was not coal, but asphaltum, and obtained a license to mine this mineral. The contending parties laid their claims before the court at Halifax and a long trial was the result: both sides brought expert testimony: Dr. C. T. Jackson and Dr. A. A. Hayes of Boston, and J. G. Percival of New Haven, were brought to show that the mineral was coal. R. C. Taylor and Prof. Jas. Robb were the experts called by Gesner and his associates to prove that the mineral of the Albert mine was asphaltum. After long argument on both sides, when the question was passed to the jury, the judge drew attention to the fact that the license to mine coal included "and other mines and minerals," and stated that the substance was a mineral. On this point the question was decided in favor of the defendants, and Gesner lost his case: though there is no doubt his contention was right, for the mineral is not a coal, but a variety of asphaltum (melan asphalt).

Dr. Gesner was appointed Commissioner to the Indians in Nova Scotia, and in 1847 made a report on their condition to the provincial government.

*Other Publications.* To the list of publications referred to in this article, or mentioned in that published in Bulletin No. XIV., the following may be added — Geology of New Brunswick, Nova Scotia and Prince Edward Island, Fisheries of the Provinces; Practical Treatise on Coal, Petroleum and other Distilled Oils.