

Dr. A. H. MACKAY presented a desiccated specimen of *Diadophis punctatus* (L.), the Ring-necked or King Snake of Nova Scotia, for examination by the members present. The specimen was captured alive during the previous fall, at Pine Hill, near the Park, and was presented to him by the Rev. Dr. Gordon. Its habits in captivity were described, the principal one (not referred to in the other papers read before the Institute) being its ability, after moistening its ventral plates by passing through water, of climbing up the more than vertical walls of a tall glass beaker in which it was kept. As the mouth of this large beaker was covered with a sheet of thin cotton cloth clamped around its mouth by a rubber band, the snake used to climb up to the top and take a circular position around the mouth and as close to the band as possible. For a couple of months it was presented with quite a variety of things to eat and drink, but was never observed to take advantage of what was offered, except to go gliding through the water or other liquid supplied. Being neglected for a week or more towards the beginning of winter, it was found dead and desiccated one day, when the experiments came to a close. It agreed closely with the specimen described in detail by Mr. Harry Piers on the 14th March, 1892. (See Vol. viii., page 181, Trans. N. S. Inst. Sci.).

He then described an exciting frog hunt by one of three large Garter Snakes, (*Eutania sirtalis*)—two of them having been killed to give the frog a better chance—which he had the good fortune to see on the partially dry bed of a rivulet near the Nictaux river in Annapolis county. The cunning and persistent determination shown by the snake in this case was most remarkable, whether in swimming and diving in the clear gravel-bottomed pool, or in climbing the rock and the bank.