

AFTERNOON LECTURES.

FIRST.—On Monday, 9th January, Prof. Macoun gave the first of a course of Afternoon Lectures arranged—as in former years—for the purpose of introducing the study of the several Branches of Natural History to the members of the Club, and also to any persons desiring to profit by the instruction offered gratuitously by the Club. The subject discussed was Ornithology, and the wider principles of the classification of birds were presented in a clear and interesting manner. Specimens of the skins of well-known species were exhibited in illustration of the structural differences pointed out. The address was followed by an instructive discussion on the food habits of certain species.

SECOND.—Mr. Ami was to have delivered the lecture on Monday, 16th January, taking as his subject Geology, but as he was unfortunately prevented by sickness from being present, his place was taken by Prof. Macoun, who gave a most agreeable address upon the same subject. He outlined in a graphic manner the supposed formation of the earth, passing from the gaseous, through the liquid condition, until by cooling, the mineral substances were precipitated, and the land, water and air were formed. The appearance first of plant life, and then when the atmosphere had been freed from its carbonic acid gas—the carbon being deposited in the form of coal—of air breathing animals was briefly sketched, and the geological evidences of their development noted. The importance of geology in this connection was thus forcibly shown, and the necessity for its careful study made apparent. In the discussion that followed Mr. Ballantyne expressed himself as fully believing in the theory of evolution of species, as opposed to that of specific creations.

THIRD.—On Monday, 23rd January, Mr. Henry M. Ami gave a most interesting address on the study of Geology: This science he stated dealt with the origin of our planet, the formation, rise and fall of continents. It was the physical history of our earth, as well as the physical geography. He then briefly considered the advent of life on earth; its progress in time; the characteristic floras and faunas of different epochs; the time when certain types were introduced, and the periods of their abundance and decay. The economic minerals deposi-