

period consisted of a diminution of the summer heat, and was of no greater amount than that fairly attributable to the great depression of the land and the different distribution of the ice-bearing Arctic current.

In connection with the plants above noticed, it is interesting to observe that at Green's Creek, at Pakenham Mills, at Montreal, and at Clarenceville on Lake Champlain, species of Canadian *Pulmonata* have been found in deposits of the same age with those containing the plants. The species which have been noticed belong to the genera *Lymnaea* and *Planorbis*.\*

I may also state as a curious fact, that among the nodules containing leaves, I have found some containing impressions of *feathers*, apparently of some small grallatorial bird. The substance of the feather has disappeared even more completely than in the celebrated Solenhofen specimens, but the impression is perfect, and in these hard nodular concretions might endure for any length of time. In searching for the fossil plants, I have also found an interesting addition to the fauna of these deposits in a Stickleback of the genus *Gasterosteus*.

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### MISCELLANEOUS.

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NEW FLUID FOR PRESERVING NATURAL HISTORY SPECIMENS ; by A. E. VERRILL.—In consequence of the high price of alcohol, a series of experiments were undertaken by me last year, with the view of finding a substitute for it in preserving the soft parts of animals. Among the various solutions and liquids tested were nearly all that have ever been recommended, besides many new ones. Chlorid of zinc, carbolic acid, glycerine, chlorid of calcium, acetate of alumina, arsenious acid, Goadby's solutions, and various combinations of these and other preparations were carefully tried, and the results made comparative by placing the same kind of objects in each, at the same time. Although each of these, under certain circumstances, have more or less preservative qualities, none of them were found satisfactory, especially when the *color* and *form* of the specimen are required to be preserved as well as its structure.

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\* Canadian Naturalist, 1860, p. 195 ; 'Geology of Canada,' 1863, p. 928.