

The history disclosed by geological research, apart from its purely physical aspects, is that of the progress of life upon the globe; the extinction of species after species of plants and animals and the introduction of new forms in their place. It is by means of the now ascertained stages of this process of change and replacement that the geologist is enabled to determine the age of any particular fossiliferous series of rocks which may come under his notice. But the scale of geological time is a very extended one, as compared with the progress of human events, and the number of animals which have been actually known to man and have since succumbed to process of change is very small. In almost every known case of the kind, man himself has assisted in giving the *coup de grace* and in completing the extermination of some animal which by reason of natural causes had already become very much restricted in its habitat.

This, as we have seen, was the case with the sea-cow. Its hour had very nearly struck before the appearance of man upon the scene.

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#### A PLANORBIS NEW TO THE OTTAWA LIST.

By GEO. W. TAYLOR, VICTORIA, B.C.

While paying a short visit to Ottawa in September last, I was so fortunate as to discover about 40 specimens of a freshwater shell new to the local lists.

The species in question is *Planorbis nautilus* Linn, and the specimens, which are all of the variety *cristatus*, were found in the ponds on the right of the road as you pass the St. Louis Dam on the way to the Experimental Farm. The only other American specimens I have seen of this species (which by the way is common enough in the old country) are two that were found by the indefatigable Mr. Hanham in the neighbourhood of Hamilton.

It would be interesting to know how this species has been introduced at Ottawa, as introduced it must have been quite recently, for it could not have long existed undiscovered in a locality so well searched as the St. Louis' Ponds have been by the Ottawa Conchologists.