

CURATOR'S REPORT, 1888-89.

During the past year numerous changes have been made in the Museum, but it must be understood that, in this report, reference only is made to what has been accomplished since the present Curator took office, in October last.

Owing to the insufficiency of light in the Aquarium Room since the building of the Victoria Rifles' Armoury, it was deemed advisable to remove the specimens and convert it into a neat and comfortable Hall to be rented for evening meetings, or to be used by the Society when required.

The fish case, which originally stood at the north end of this room, has been removed to the upper gallery, and its contents have been carefully dusted, cleaned and rearranged, whilst the long case which stood at the east side has been taken away completely, part of the specimens have been placed in other parts of the Museum, and the balance has been carefully put away until such time as new cases can be provided.

The cabinet of reptiles which also stood in this room, but which had fallen into a state verging upon ruin, has been repaired, and now stands upon a suitable table at the head of the gallery stair.

A considerable amount of time was occupied in rearranging this cabinet; the specimens, originally preserved in spirits and which had become dried up and useless, were culled out; the bottles and jars containing those yet good have been all washed and the stuffed specimens cleansed with turpentine and varnished where necessary.

The alligator, crocodile and whale have been re-varnished; a new stand has been provided for the old cannon, and the cases in the gallery have all been painted to correspond with those in other parts of the Museum.

Special reference must be made to the gallery of the Museum, which through neglect had been allowed to fall into a deplorable state of dilapidation. Many of the specimens nailed upon the walls were inaccurately named or described, and the majority were without labels, others