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THE  
PROCEEDINGS  
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OF  
NEW SOUTH WALES.

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[WITH ELEVEN PLATES.]

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## RISSOINA CYLINDRACEA.

*T. minuta, cylindracea, alba subpellucida, lævi, polita; anfr. 5½ elongatis; apice obtuso, sutura marginata; apertura pyriformi, eversa, labro incrassato, labio inconspicuo.* Long. 5, lat. 1½ mil.

A small cylindrical form, differing from *R. gertrudis*, in being entirely smooth, and highly polished without any signs of plaits. The suture is margined, but the lip is inconspicuous with the lower part of the aperture everted. Off Port Jackson, 45 fathoms. J. Brazier.

## EXHIBITS.

Dr. Hector exhibited a series of 60 plates of the Fossil Flora of New Zealand, photo-lithographed from drawings made by him. He also gave a general account of the Stratified Rocks of New Zealand as distinguished and related by the organic remains preserved in them.

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MONDAY, 26TH NOVEMBER, 1877.

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W. J. STEPHENS, ESQ., M.A., President. in the Chair.

## MEMBERS ELECTED.

His Grace the Archbishop of Sydney.

The Rev Dr. Forrest.

James Hector, M.D., F.R.S., &c., of Wellington, New Zealand.

The SECRETARY reported that the Council had elected F. M. Bailey, Esq., of Brisbane, to be a Corresponding Member.

## DONATIONS.

Compte Rendu de la Soc. Entomologique de Belgique, Serie II., Nos. 41 and 42, by the Society.

H. Alleyne Nicholson's Ancient Life History of the Earth, and F. P. Pascoe's Zoological Classification, by Hon. W. Macleay. Survey of Buller Coal Fields, New Zealand, by Dr. Hector.

## PAPERS READ.

On some Tertiary Fossils, from New Guinea.

By the Rev. J. E. TENISON-WOODS, F.G.S., F.L.S., &c.

At a previous meeting this year (Aug. 27), I drew the attention of the Society to some Echini, which had been obtained by Mr. Macleay in New Guinea. They were fossils, and the beds with their position and character were then described. I promised at the same time to refer to the Mollusca on a future occasion. Since then the whole collection has been carefully gone over by Mr. Masters, who has broken up all the larger portions and cleared away the matrix from the casts. The result has not revealed any new fossils, and no new casts of any definite character have been found. The consequence is that the material at my disposal is exceedingly small. There are casts in abundance, but for the most part of bivalves, and these, only internal casts are preserved from which even the genus can very seldom be ascertained. I proceed therefore to deal with what can be clearly described. The only shell is a Pecten, which appears to me to be a new species. It is a remarkable fact, as I before observed, that Pectens seem to have some singular power of resisting the dissolving action of water in limestone deposits. Pectens and Brachiopoda are the only mollusca preserved in the Mount Gambier limestones, though there are casts of others. Even the finest ornaments of the shell, and the most delicate tracery, is quite fresh and well preserved, while the large shells of other genera are entirely dissolved away. It would be really worth while to investigate the microscopic structure of these shells with a view to explain the cause of their permanent character. The following is the diagnosis of the new species.

## PECTEN NOVÆGUINÆ.

P. shell regularly orbicular, equivalve regularly convex, but not globose, rather thick, equilateral and symmetrically rounded at the margin; ears quite square, one being a little obliquely indented at the edge, but otherwise almost equal and rather large; furnished with 12 to 14 large rounded radiate ribs, each



with two rather shallow radiate grooves and transversely striate, striæ at the marginal end becoming scaly raised imbricateous, 8 to 10 in number, interstices furnished with two to three conspicuous, slender, granular ribs, umbones very acute, ears with 8 to 10 very granular ribs. Long. 60, lat. 50. thickness of two valves 30 millim.

The scaly margin gives this shell somewhat the aspect of *P. pallium*, but that has a generally depressed habit, and the scales cover the test. It cannot be mistaken for *P. asper* of South Australia, which has about 25 ribs, but the peculiar multiradiate form of the ribs allies it to that shell and the common Australian *P. bifrons*. It is something like *P. radula*, Linn. of the Philippine Islands, but the shape is different altogether. It is an Australian form, but with only remote resemblances, unless to one still existing in the neighbouring seas.

There are three other casts of univalves in the collection which can be determined. One is a *Phos*, which appears to be new, but is hardly sufficiently preserved for description. The other is a *Strombus*, of the subgenus *Monodactyles*, probably also new, though allied in form to *S. Novæ Zealandiæ*. The third can be identified with some certainty. It is

*DOLIUM COSTATUM*, Desh. in Lamarck, vol. X., p. 144.

There is no other species known to me which has the peculiar subacute distant ribs and decidedly canaliculate suture, all of which, as well as the corresponding shape are well shown in the cast in Mr. Macleay's museum. It is a common form in the Indian Archipelago, and I believe specimens have been found on the coast of New Guinea also.

These facts confirm the opinion I have already expressed, that we have in these deposits a very recent tertiary formation, much newer than any of the Murray River or Western Victorian beds. There are no fossils of any kind common to the New Guinea rocks, and those of Southern Australia and the general aspect of both is totally different.

# Notes on a Collection of Birds from Port Darwin.

By GEORGE MASTERS, Curator Macleayan Museum.

The Birds enumerated in this Paper were shot by Mr. Spalding, at or near Port Darwin, during the months of May, June, July, August, and September of the present year.

I find only one undescribed species, but a number of them are little known, and very rare in collections. I have fortunately been enabled, through the accurate observations of Mr. Spalding, to give some idea of the habits of many of the species, and of the apparent rarity or nonrarity of them all. For this reason I believe that these few notes will be acceptable to Australian Ornithologists.

## 1.—HALIASTUR LEUCOSTERNUS, Gould.

This species appears to be common near the coast, and is frequently to be seen hovering over the settlement.

## 2.—HALIASTUR SPHENURUS, Vieill.

Not very common; generally seen about Lagoons.

## 3.—PANDION LEUCOCEPHALUS, Gould.

Seen occasionally; not common.

## 4.—HIERACIDEA BERIGORA, Vig. and Horsf.

Not uncommon. The specimens obtained vary considerably in size and colour.

## 5.—ASTUR APPROXIMANS, Vig. and Horsf.

One young male only; rarely seen.

## 6.—BAZA SUBSCRISTATA, Gould.

Two obtained; two others seen; frequents scrubs.

## 7.—STRIX NOVÆ HOLLANDIÆ, Steph.

The specimen obtained was shot in a tea-tree swamp; no others seen.

## 8.—SPILOGLAUX BOOBOOK, Lath.

Common; smaller in size and paler in colour than New South Wales specimens.

## 9.—ÆGOTHELES LEUCOGASTER, Gould.

Plentiful, but difficult to obtain.