

Elephant. Naturally the local gardens came in for comparison, and it was declared that "nowhere was evidence given of more attention to the rational housing and the comfort of the animals" than is visible in the Melbourne collection.

EXHIBITION OF SPECIMENS.

At the close of the meeting, the chairman announced that Mr. C. French had obtained a supply of the Diamond Beetle (*Entimus imperialis*) from Brazil. The splendid lustre of this beetle is due to minute brilliant scales, which are objects of great beauty when specially mounted for the microscope. Specimens for mounting will be distributed at the next meeting of the Club. The meeting terminated with the usual exhibition of specimens, of which the following is a list:—By Messrs. E. Anderson and F. Spry.—Eggs and young lava of *Pieris teutonia*; also eggs laid on four different kinds of Capparidæ. By Mr. A. Coles.—Birds, nest, and eggs of Sacred Halcyon and Superb Warbler. By Department of Agriculture (Entomological Branch).—Coloured illustrations of life-histories of Victorian insects for the Imperial Institute, London. By Rev. W. Fielder.—Specimens of Infusoria. By Mr. C. French.—Two new Australian longicorn beetles and four exotic Cetoniadæ. By Mr. H. F. Hill.—Case of Victorian Lepidoptera. By Mr. G. A. Keartland.—*Moloch horridus* (Devil Lizard), from Central Australia; *Acanthopis antarctica* (Deaf Adder), *Pseudechys porphyriacus* (Black Snake), *Hoplocephalus spectabilis* (Port Lincoln Snake), *Delma impar*, and eggs of *Hoplocephalus superbus* (Copperhead Snake), killed at Bayswater, 9th August, 1892. By Mr. J. N. M'Kibbin.—Fifty species butterflies, two of which have not been obtained in Victoria previously, namely—*Xenica ovichora* and *X. porrea* (1889), Mt. Hotham; also three others, yet unnamed. By Baron von Müeller, K.M.G.—Fungi prepared for the herbarium by G. Herpell, Germany; and a plant new to science (*Vellea salmoniana*), from Gascoyne River, W.A., collected by Mrs. M. Forrest. By Mr. T. Steel.—Bloom spike of *Banksia serrata*, from Coogee Bay, Sydney; and aboriginal stone axe from Harrow, Victoria.

EXCURSION TO FRANKSTON.

On the morning of Saturday, 9th of November, two members of the Club (Messrs. D. Best and C. French) put in an appearance on the Princes Bridge railway station *en route* to Frankston. The morning was most unpleasantly warm, and as the sun gained power the heat became well nigh unsupportable. A start was made at 9.15 a.m. from Melbourne, and at Frankston we were joined by Mr. Hart, who had got into the train at East Brighton. On approaching Frankston a deal of swampy country has to be crossed, acres of reeds (*Arundo phragmitis*), also bulrushes

(Typha), covering the surface of the water, whilst Claytonia, Lobelia, and other plants which frequent these pools of saltish water grew in abundance. The pretty little Reed Warbler is to be seen here, with Blue Wrens and others of the feathered tribe, these little creatures hopping about as cheerfully as ever. Times with them will soon be changed, however, as the idiotic army of "pot-shooters" are getting ready for their diabolical work of the extermination of bird life all and sundry. If the members of the Field Naturalists' Club have any true interest in the protection of our native birds, now is the time for them to be up and doing. The gun tax, if only in the interests of the growers, must come, and we hope it may come quickly. Frankston having been reached, a start was made towards the township, which was passed through, and we then turned in through the recreation ground, in which there is a large swamp, called, I believe, by the good people of Frankston, the Public Lake, and on the edge of which the rare orchid, *Spiranthes australis*, is found, although sparingly and later on in the season.

We could find little in plants, and as for insects of use, they were not to be found at all. Pushing through a splendid lot of scrub (*Leptospermum*) in full bloom, we found it to be swarming with the little green beetle, *Diphucephala colaspidioides*, and with nothing else. It would seem as if this beetle, when plentiful, is not troubled with the company of other kinds of beetles, or in fact insects of any kind. This singular fact has often been remarked by collectors. The common Tea-tree, *Melaleuca ericifolia*, also the handsome yellow *Limnanthemum*, were in splendid bloom. The two singular ferns, *Schizaea bifida* and *S. fistulosa*, also *Drosera binata* and other bog plants, grow here in abundance. The day was now intensely hot, nearly 90° in the shade and 143° in the sun, this being for most people, our leader included, much too hot for comfort. Having found little or nothing in either plants or insects, we ascended the hills, going towards Silverwater Creek, a pretty stream which empties itself into the sea near where it is crossed by the main road to Schnapper Point. A few years since and one could find *Orthoceras* and *Calochilus*, two pretty orchids, but our bad luck seemed to follow us the whole day, for we could not find a single plant of either; and although we beat hundreds of bushes for insects, none were to be found. We were now getting tired of searching and not finding anything, so we headed for home after having lunched in the usual happy-go-lucky style peculiar to people of our class. Coming to a public (?) spring, well known to those travelling in these parts, we found the door in which the tap is enclosed to be locked, so that we were at a loss to know how to get a drink of water. Near this spring grows a pretty scarlet-leaved *Drosera*, also a minute species of *Pterostylis*, not

yet in bloom, and which may yet prove new to Victoria, as it was unknown to any of the party. The pretty little *Utricularia dichotoma* and *U. lateriflora* grew about here ; and on the whole, the Frankston and Mount Eliza districts are, as collecting grounds for plants, equalled by very few places in Victoria. On the way to the station we noticed many plants of *Gahina*, *Schœnus*, *Comesperma ericinum* and *C. calymega*, *Xyris*, *Leptocarpus*, *Juncus*, and a host of other small plants. In the moist flats the elegant shrub *Viminaria denudata* was very common. A couple of specimens of *Pieris teutonia*, the common Caper Butterfly, were taken ; and whilst one friend was lamenting the fact of our not having seen even an ant, he having by accident put his hand on a jumping ant (*Myrmeca*) whilst taking a wasp from the nest, became suddenly aware of the presence of an old friend in the form of a "jumper" of considerable activity. The clouds were now gathering around us, and over seawards lightning flashes were most vivid, and for a while we were expecting a regular drenching ; the storm, however, passed over Cranbourne way. The sun was now obscured, but a hot dry wind made matters very unpleasant, and after a stroll on the pier we got into the train and reached Melbourne in good time, having had one of the most disappointing trips of the year. Those who perhaps wisely decided not to face what after all proved to be the hottest day of the season, had no reason whatever to feel disappointed. Mr. Hart left us at Brighton, and, as might be expected, the leader landed the remainder of the party safely in Melbourne at about 7 o'clock.—C. FRENCH.

EXCURSION TO HEIDELBERG.

DECEMBER 3rd was the date set apart for the excursion to Heidelberg in search of pond life, and glorious weather invited a good attendance ; yet only eight, of whom two were ladies, essayed the trip. On reaching the station we decided to make at once for the River Yarra, and the first casts for specimens were made on the southern side of the bridge which crosses the Yarra at this spot. Plenty of tadpoles and a few Rotifers were captured, and then a remove to the other side of the bridge, under the welcome shade of the willow trees, brought us to a veritable treasure house. Leeches, freshwater Planarians, *Hydra* and Rotifera were clearly visible, and a hand lens showed further that a great many forms of Vorticellidæ and other Ciliata, together with Heliozoa, were present. Subsequent examination of the material carried home revealed the presence of many representatives of the Vorticellidæ. Thus *Vorticella microstoma*, a solitary form, was very plentiful ; as was also *V. nebulifera*, a social variety. Among the colonial forms *Carchesium*, with its contractile stalk, and *Epistylis*, with its



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