end; the thinner end pointed. Length, 1·15 in by 0·8 in. The nest is similar to that of others of the genus,—a round cup-shaped structure of sticks, lined with finer material and grass, &c.

(*To be continued.*)

Note upon the Bark of a reputed Ecbolic Plant from New Caledonia.

By Dr. Thomas Dixon, Sydney.

Some two months ago I received from this Society about (2½) two and a half ounces of bark, sent by Mr. Layard, of New Caledonia; it was in pieces apparently from an undershrub—inside it was fibrous and brown, outside it had a corky layer $\frac{1}{20}$ inch thick, with a grey-brown surface more or less tuberculated. On tasting it had a slightly astringent barky flavor only. Perchloride of iron gave a black infusion, caustic potash solution darkened it, shewing presence of tannic acid. Having so little to work with I made a cold infusion of some, then spirituous etherial extract from the rest, and finally I made a decoction of the already used bark. The result was three very light brown clear fluids, very slightly astringent in the case of the infusions. I added all three together, carefully dried at a temperature of 120° Ft., and made thus an extract weighing some nine grains, which was chiefly fine powder from the bark. I gave a cat (in kitten) three grains as a pill,—no effect of any kind visible, even on the pupil of the eye. I gave her a week later the remaining six grains in milk, which she devoured greedily, though it made the milk quite brown,—no effect resulted. A kitten three months old took a little left in the milk dish, with no visible effect. The cat littered four mature kittens two days after.

Now, be it remembered that here was six grains of extract from 1¾ oz. of bark given to an animal 6 lbs. weight, which should be a powerful dose if the medicine had any potency of con-

sequence. Reputed Ecbolics are numerous, but the only good ones known are *Claviceps purpurea* (Ergot of rye), and *Ustilago maidis* (smut of corn). These are low vegetable growths; investigation would probably show that this Ecbolic property is a characteristic of this coniomycetous group, as are the physiological properties of other plants and groups.

The bark probably is an astringent of little value, since we have many such of much more pronounced qualities, — and, moreover, mere astringency is a property less and less estimated in medicine as science advances.

Note on the Anatomy of two rare genera of Pigeons

By William A. Haswell, M.A., B.Sc.

Ædirhinus insolitus.

The genus *Ædirhinus* is distinguished among the fruit-eating pigeons by the possession of a bony excrescence on the nasal and frontal regions of the skull, very much resembling that occurring in certain varieties of the domestic fowl. An examination of its anatomy, however, shews that in all other respects this rare pigeon is a very near ally of the genus *Ptilopus*. As in the latter genus there is no gall-bladder the *ambiens* muscle is absent and the gizzard has a cruciform lumen in transverse section owing to the development of four muscular masses. One point hitherto unnoticed in the myology of *Ptilopus* is likewise shared by *Ædirhinus*. In a previous note on the myological characters of the *Columbæ* published in the proceedings of this Society, (Vol. iv., p. 306, 1879), I gave as one of the peculiarities of the muscular system in the Pigeons the absence of a posterior belly of the *latissimus dorsi*. At that time I had only had the opportunity of examining members of the subfamilies *Columbinæ* and *Phapinæ* of Garrod, and in these this modification of the