

**MEETING OF THE BIOLOGICAL CLUB.**

PROF. OSBORN'S RESIDENCE, April 10, 1905.

The Club was called to order by the President, Prof. Hine. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The program arranged for the evening was to consist of talks by Professors Kellerman and Hine on their recent trip through Central America. Prof. Kellerman was the first speaker and gave a very interesting account of the trip. The party consisting of E. B. Williamson and wife, C. C. Dean and wife, N. W. Miller, Professors Hine and Kellerman, left New Orleans, Jan. 5. In spite of a bad boat and some sea-sickness the trip down was a pleasant one. Many interesting things were observed, as flying fish, peculiar birds, and the beautiful deep green of the tropical landscape. The first stop was made at Belize but only for a few hours. The party arrived at Port Barrios, Guatemala, Jan. 10.

Everything in this country was entirely new and interesting to residents of a temperate climate. New plants, new animals, wonderful palms with which there is nothing in the greenhouses of this country to compare. The fauna and flora of this coast region was interesting enough to spend the whole of their time on but they went back into the country by means of a poor railroad. After traveling all day and all night they stopped at Gualan about 80 miles from the coast. The trip on the slow railroad had been a wonderful one. The trees were especially interesting but even more so were the wonderful epiphytes—the Bromeliads and Orchids resting on the trees, some with roots hanging almost to the ground. Bamboos, higher even than the trees were abundant. Nearly every plant around Gualan was new to a northern visitor but Shepherd's Purse Purslane and a few of our more common plants were found. Compositae were numerous and of very large size, many being conspicuous shrubs and some large trees. It was very warm and dry at Gualan and all superfluous clothing was dispensed with. Nearly all the grass was dead. The deciduous trees of this climate have the habit of shedding their leaves whenever they please, usually at the dry season and this makes the landscape very peculiar.

From here the party went on up the railroad to the foot of the mountains, 120 miles from the coast. From here they had to travel 60 miles on mules to Guatemala City. Prof. Kellerman remained here while the rest of the party went on to the Pacific coast. Guatemala City is very beautiful and contains many interesting things, especially the museum and the Temple of Minerva. The scenery there is as fine and charming as that of

the Alps but there is no snow. The volcanoes were very interesting. Prof. Kellerman climbed to the top of one of these (Argua) and found many interesting specimens among which was a peculiar Pine which is very probably a new species. Many of our common greenhouse plants were encountered here as *Salvia*, *Begonias*, *Hibiscus*, etc. True rusts (*Puccinias*) were found in abundance at Guatemala City but scarcely any in the low lands before this. Prof. Kellerman had with him a large number of souvenir postal cards as well as several original photographs which illustrated the character of the country very well.

Miss Riddle acted as chairman while Prof. Hine spoke of the people of Guatemala. The natives along the coast show the influence of the white people and are quite different from those of the interior. The natives seem to take everything they produce as a joke and consider a thing of little value unless brought from some other country. The people apparently are very kind. Their houses are simple consisting of four posts with a thatched roof and sides made of split bamboos or of poles. No windows are needed. Their clothing is very thin and simple. The men and women dress about as in this country. The women go barefooted but the men wear a kind of sandal shoe. Everybody smokes, the men cigars and the women cigarettes. Their food consists principally of beans and of a kind of cake made by baking pounded corn. Their flag is a very pretty one consisting of two blue stripes with a white one between upon which there is an emblem consisting of their national bird and crossed muskets.

Some of our common birds occur there probably passing the winter. The cat bird, mourning dove, Maryland yellow throat, black and white warblers, kildeer and others were observed. The brown pelican was very common but the white one was not seen. The black vulture is the most common of all the birds and dozens of them could be seen around the back yards of the native's dwellings. Kingfishers, pigeons, cuckoos and flycatchers are very common. Cuckoos were observed feeding around cattle or about fires and would catch the startled grasshoppers, etc. Prof. Hine exhibited two specimens of *Peripatus* which he was fortunate enough to obtain. Prof. Hine also had with him a number of souvenirs of this interesting tropical country. Prof. Kellerman exhibited some dress goods of the natives.

The club then adjourned but at the kind invitation of Prof. Osborn a very pleasant social time was enjoyed during which refreshments were served. It was long after the constitutional hour for adjournment when the members separated, carrying with them the memory of a very pleasant evening.

F. M. SURFACE, *Secretary.*