

“ I may here mention that we named the newly discovered continent, to the southward, ‘ Boothia,’ as also the isthmus, the peninsula to the north, and the eastern sea, after my worthy friend Felix Booth, Esq. the truly patriotic citizen of London, who, in the most disinterested manner, enabled me to equip this expedition in a superior style.

“ Commander Ross, Mr. Thom, and myself, have indeed been serving without pay ; but, in common with the crew, have lost our all, which I regret the more, because it puts it totally out of my power adequately to remunerate my fellow-sufferers, whose case I cannot but recommend to their Lordships’ consideration. We have, however, the consolation, that the results of this expedition have been conclusive, and to science highly important, and may be briefly comprehended in the following words:—The discovery of the Gulf of Boothia, the continent and isthmus of Boothia Felix, and a vast number of islands, rivers, and lakes ; the undeniable establishment that the north-east point of America extends to the 74th degree of north latitude ; valuable observations of every kind, but particularly on the magnet ; and, to crown all, have had the honour of placing the illustrious name of our Most Gracious Sovereign William IV. on the true position of the magnetic pole.”

SOUTH AFRICAN INSTITUTION.

January 8, 1834.—Major CLOETE placed upon the table, as a present for the Museum, a collection of Mineralogical Specimens from the Island of Tristan D’Acuna ; and Mr. HUTTON, through Mr. LUDWIG, a small collection of Reptiles from Java. Dr. SMITH called the attention of the Members to four *South African* Birds and to a *Saurian* Reptile from Swan River, all of which he considered new to science, and named and characterised as follows ;

Trichophorus flaviventris. Upper parts of head, back, rump and tail, olive-brown ; outer vanes of some of the quill feathers slightly edged with green ; chin and throat pale straw-yellow, breast and flanks greenish yellow, centre of belly and vent, yellow ; bill, legs, and toes, a dark horn-colour. Length from point of bill to tip of tail nine inches.

Inhabits the country near Port Natal.

✓ *Halycon Swainsonii.* Head, back and sides of neck and interscapulars dull white, the first more or less tinted with grey-brown, the last margined behind with a broad transverse black band ; back, middle of wings, and tail, blue with a green gloss, particularly the two centre feathers of the latter ; shoulders, scapulars, and points of quills, black, inner vanes of several of the outermost wing feathers white towards quills ; throat and centre of breast pure white, sides of breast, belly,

and vent ferruginous; bill, legs and toes light red; claws dark horn coloured. Length from point of bill to extremity of tail eight inches and a half.

Inhabits the interior of South Africa.

Halycon Senegaloides. Upper and lateral parts of head and of neck grey-green; interscapulars and scapulars green; back a clear dark blue-green; shoulders and extremities of wing feathers black, middle of wings deep blue-green, inner vanes towards quills white; tail blue-green; throat, centre of belly, and vent white; breast and sides of belly greyish, bill and legs deep red; space between eye and base of bill black. Length nine inches.

Inhabits the country about Port Natal.

Edolius Ludwigii. Black with a shining green gloss, most distinct on the upper parts and the breast; tail slightly forked; bill and legs black. Length seven inches.

Inhabits the country about Port Natal.

Lamprotornis rufiventris. Head brown with a faint purple gloss; back, shoulders, throat, and breast, a shining coppery-green, with a brownish tint; wings brown, more or less glossed with green, inner vanes of feathers white towards quills; tail deep shining green, belly and insides of shoulders ferruginous, bill and legs reddish brown. Length eight inches.

Inhabits the interior of South Africa.

CLASS REPTILIA.

ORDER SAURIA.

Genus BRACHYDACTYLUS.

CH. GEN.—Head large and dilated behind; above covered with irregular-shaped scales; ears concealed under the hinder edges of cheeks; teeth conical and pointed, small in front, and large behind; tongue emarginate; neck much narrower than head; body depressed and carinated above; legs short, toes very short; tail short and club-shaped. Body and tail covered with imbricated scales, those on the back and sides very large and irregularly shaped.

Brachydactylus typicus. Colour of head clear yellow-brown, back, sides, and upper-part of tail, dark red-brown variegated with more or less distinct transverse yellow bands; two blackish blotches on each side of neck; beneath, greenish yellow clouded with dark dusky green. Length from nose to base of tail six inches; length of tail two inches.

Inhabits Australia,—about the Swan River.

Dr. Smith remarked that, until he met with a second specimen of this Lizard, he had considered the peculiar appearance of the tail as depending upon its having been injured, but now he was satisfied from having minutely compared the two, that it was the natural form.