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BY

SIR JAMES HECTOR, K.C.M.G., M.D., F.R.S.

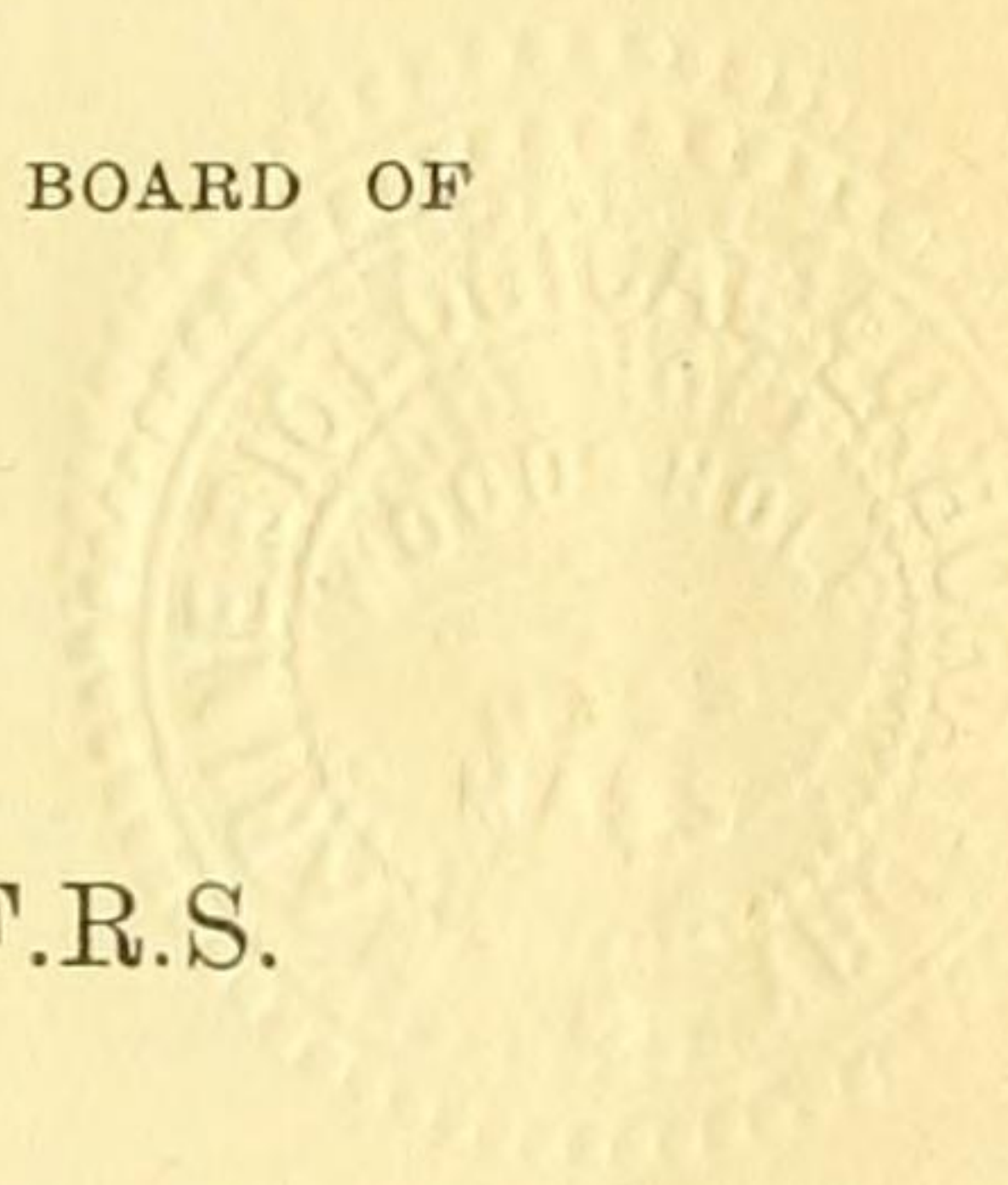
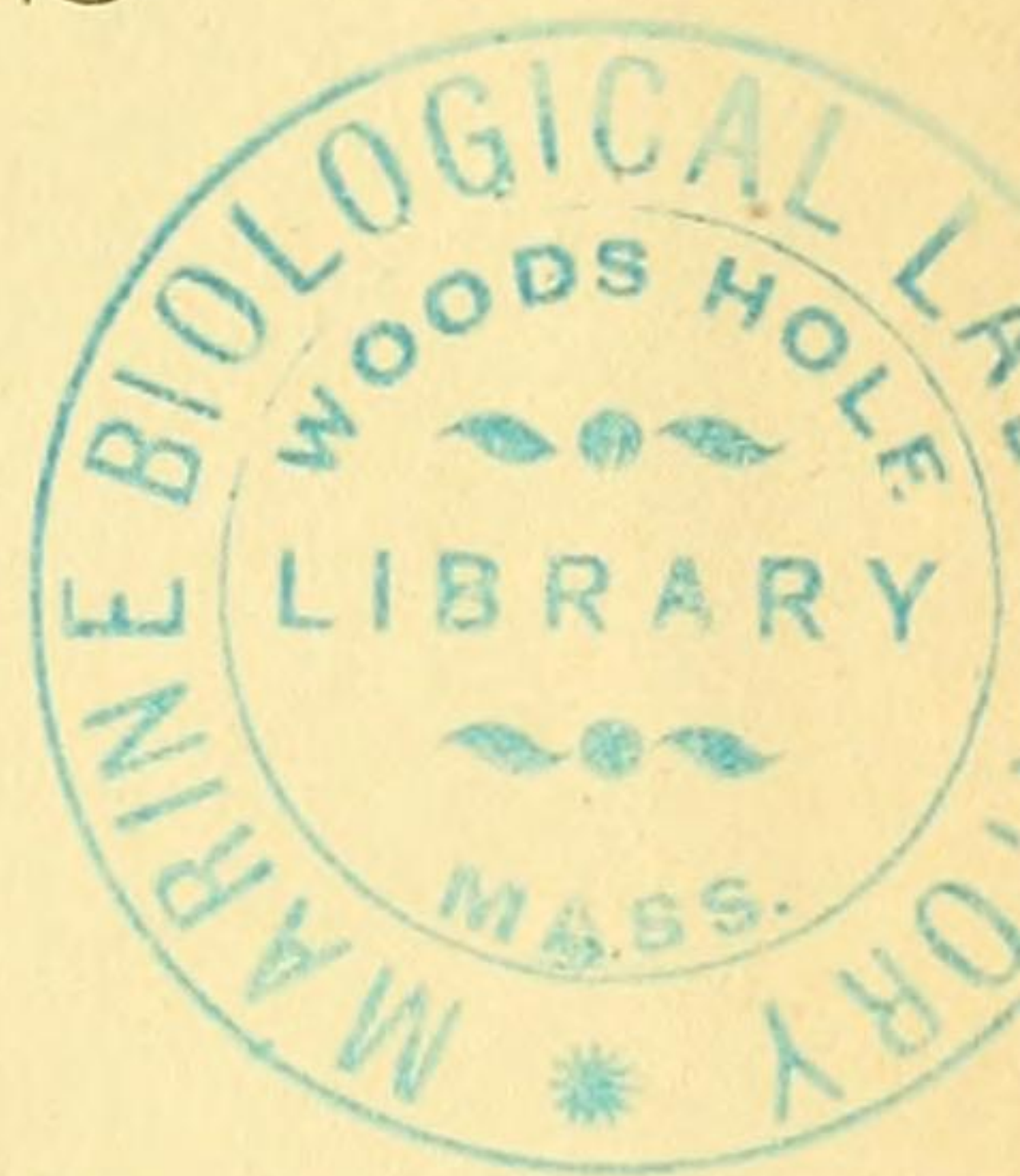
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close collection, accurate analysis, and statement of facts. The recent coral-boring experiments at Funi-futi gave conclusive evidence of subsidence. The bore had been down 1,300 ft., and was not out of the dead coral yet. As coral did not live below a small depth, this was a sign that the bottom of the sea there had been gradually going down.

The President said, although the paper was very interesting, he did not think the author had brought forward sufficient evidence to prove his views regarding the volcanoes of the Pacific and his upheaval theory.

Mr. Phillips, in replying, said he had collected as many facts as he could. He had not had time to read the whole of his paper, but when it was published it would be found that it did contain facts and figures. In geological matters he would not, however, for one moment pit himself against Sir James Hector.

The following additions to the Museum were exhibited and remarks made on them by Sir James Hector:—

1. Spider-crabs.

Sir James Hector said there had been for some time past, in the Museum, a few claws of a very large crab collected by him in Perseverance Harbour, Campbell Island, and there had been some speculation as to what species they belonged to. Recently, in going through the spirit-room of the Museum, an old jar—one of those given to the late Captain Fairchild on his cruises round the coast—was unearthed, and on examination it was found to contain a new species of crab. The old label on the jar was almost worn away, but sufficient remained to show that the specimens it contained came from Campbell Island. On examination these were found to be large specimens of spider-crabs—far exceeding in size any ever discovered in New Zealand or anywhere else. They were of the genus *Paramicippa*, there being one male and a number of females. He said he had searched in the voyage of the "Venus"—the only exploring ship that had ever gone to Campbell Island—and he could find no account of any spider-crab belonging to the genus *Paramicippa* at all approaching these in size. There was one species belonging to New Zealand, but from head to tail it was only a little over $\frac{1}{2}$ in. in length, and it differed very much from the Campbell Island specimen. A feature of the specimens was the peculiar pointed turned-down nose, which gave the crab a remarkable toad-like aspect. The claws in the Museum belonged to still more gigantic specimens of the same genus, which, if discovered, would prove a valuable marketable commodity, and, if found on the adjacent islands, would be well worth transferring to our coastal waters. He had named the new species *Paramicippa grandis*, and, as he had only one male and ten female specimens, he would be willing to exchange some of the latter with other museums. Perseverance Harbour, where, no doubt, these crabs were found, was a most interesting locality, containing the coal formation of New Zealand and other geological features, as well as large quantities of fossil wood.

2. New Zealand crow.

Sir James Hector, in drawing attention to this very fine specimen of the New Zealand crow, or jay, as it should more properly be called, made interesting reference to the complete isolation of the orange-wattle crow in the South Island and the blue-wattle crow in the North Island. It was strange, he said, that a narrow strip of water like Cook Strait should make the line of demarcation in the species so distinct. The manner in which the two species were so absolutely circumscribed held good in an extraordinary way. For instance, he showed that an albino of the blue-wattle species kept the blue wattles, while an albino of the South Island species still kept the yellow wattles. Thus we were face to face with one of the most curious problems in the colouration of birds.