

the species to Mr. Boulenger, as a slight recognition of the impetus which he has given to herpetological science by formulating a definite method for the description of the species belonging to this interesting sub-order.

REPORT OF A COLLECTING TRIP TO MOUNT
KOSCIUSKO.

BY RICHARD HELMS.

(Abridged from his Report to the Curator.)

LEAVING Sydney on the 5th February by night train, and reaching Michelago about 7 a.m., I proceeded without delay by coach to Cooma. On account of the boisterous weather of the previous night the roads were very bad, and the prospect of success in my undertaking, which almost entirely depended on fine weather, was therefore not very hopeful. All my boxes got saturated, which compelled me to unpack them to prevent the contents getting spoiled. This increased my discomfort, for anxious as I was to make my tour a success, particularly as it was my first for your Institution, the outset was so discouraging that it almost disheartened me. Moreover everyone predicted a long continuance of bad weather, this having been the usual experience in that part of the country after the breaking up of a long dry season. It is pleasing to relate, therefore, that since I left Cooma only a few rainy days have stopped my collecting, but I was at a great disadvantage in reaching the field of operations at such a late time of the season, when most of the shrubs and trees were past flowering. Another disadvantage was that I reached Jindabyne, the last settlement near the mountains at a time when everyone was engaged in harvesting, and consequently a considerable difficulty arose about getting a guide and packhorses to enable me to push on at once to the highest peaks of the range. I am however doubtful whether after all much has been lost, for whilst waiting to get a guide, &c., I put my time in well at another place, and what I missed from the highest altitudes, I gained in extra numbers where I collected, many of which also proved highly interesting. To collect successfully at these high altitudes, it is my opinion one ought to be there before the beginning of January, and stay at least during the whole of that month, when the floral development displays its greatest luxuriance. The high winds which commonly prevail at altitudes above 4,000 feet, are very detrimental to successful collecting; but occasionally almost dead calms are experienced, and during such periods insect life appears abundant.