

NOTES ON MOLLUSCA FROM THE ALPINE ZONE OF
MOUNT KOSCIUSKO.

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[Plate XXIII.]

The Alpine fauna and flora have elsewhere yielded such interesting results that it is with pleasurable anticipations a student turns to the consideration of this chapter in Australian Biology. The restricted development of high land here holds out, however, no promise of a rich harvest. In Australia the alpine zone is almost limited to the plateau of Mount Kosciusko, an elevation so insignificant (7,256 ft.) that on other continents it would rather be termed a hill than a mountain.

Two observers have contributed, especially to our knowledge of the physical features of this district. In January, 1885, Dr. R. von Lendenfeld made a brief reconnaissance and under the titles of "Meteorology of Mount Kosciusko" and "The Glacial Period in Australia" communicated some of his experiences of it to the Linnean Society of New South Wales. A more detailed account of his travels appeared as a Parliamentary Paper, Sydney, 1885, and in Petermann's *Mittheilungen*, 1887.

Later, several visits, the first under the auspices of this Institution, were paid by Mr. Richard Helms. In a "Report of a Collecting Trip to Mount Kosciusko,"* in an essay "On the recently observed evidences of an extensive Glacier Action at Mount Kosciusko Plateau," † and in a paper now being published by the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia, N.S.W. Branch, he has recorded observations on the geology and natural history of the district. Considerable zoological collections were formed by Mr. Helms, which have not yet been exhaustively investigated.

"An isopod of a very old and greatly generalised type," ‡ he procured at the 5,700 level, was described by Dr. C. Chilton§ as *Phreatoicus australis*; a species since collected at the 4000 ft. level on Mount Wellington in Tasmania and which completes a genus of two other species from South New Zealand. This distribution supporting that of *Geonemertes australiensis*, Dendy,||

* Rec. Austr. Mus. i., pp. 11-16.

† Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. (2) viii., pp. 349-364.

‡ Thomson, Trans. Linn. Soc., Zool. (2) vi., p. 301.

§ Rec. Austr. Mus. i., pp. 149-171.

|| Proc. Linn. Soc. N.S.W. (2) x., p. 372.