

human agency. It should also be noted, that this station, as I am informed by Rev. Mr. Wright, is near an extensive glacial moraine which traverses that district, and which he has traced for a great distance northward.

ASA GRAY.

It will be observed that we have now knowledge of six stations in Nova Scotia, two in Newfoundland, two in Massachusetts, and one in Maine, making in all eleven stations on the Atlantic seaboard of North America.

G. L.

ART. IX.—A NOTE ON THE CARIBOU. BY R. MORROW.

(Read March 13th, 1876.)

IN Captain Hardy's "Forest Life in Acadia," page 125 is the following :

“ With regard to the barren ground Caribou (*R. groenlandicus*)
 “ being distinct from the larger animal of the forests, the separation
 “ of the two as species by Professor Baird, of the Smithsonian Insti-
 “ tution at Washington, * * * * * joined with the
 “ opinion expressed by Sir John Richardson * * * * *
 “ and the further testimony of Dr. King, surgeon to Back's expedi-
 “ tion, appears to leave no room for doubt ;” and again, “ Dr. King
 “ mentions that the barren ground species is peculiar not only in
 “ the form of its liver, but in not possessing a receptacle for bile.”

Referring to the above, I would like to record in our Transactions the following note :

Our Caribou (woodland var.) has a peculiar liver, rather small, ovate, long diameter nine inches, short diameter six inches, (from an animal supposed to be about eighteen months old,) situated on the right side, long diameter nearly parallel with the back bone, divided almost in the centre by a shallow sulcus, and having a protuberance, or small somewhat conical lobe, which the butcher calls a button, upon the upper part of the concave side with a broad

base, and another very small one like a flat teat,* in the same line as the large one, one and a half inches below it, in size about half an inch long, three eighths of an inch wide, and about one eighth of an inch thick; and it has no gall bladder. It is more than probable that this form of liver and absence of the gall bladder is common to the deer tribe: Goldsmith says "all the deer tribe want the gall bladder."

I have never seen a barren ground Caribou, nor any description of the animal giving the peculiarity in the form of the liver of this species, so called; but the structure of the barren ground and woodland varieties of Caribou is most likely the same, and the difference in size and horns is probably due to climate and food, while the migrations in contrary directions of the two "varieties in the barren grounds" and "woodland districts" of Sir John Richardson, may be accounted for by the fact that each is taking its nearest course to the sea coast.

Our worthy President, Dr. Gilpin, in a paper read before the Institute, February 11, 1871, and published in the Transactions, says, speaking of the varieties, "Reindeer, Caribou, and Woodland Caribou, are their local names. In addition to this the extreme north possesses a deer smaller than any of those, with much larger horns, and with no gall bladder; otherwise the same. Sir John Richardson calls them a permanent variety, naming them Barren Ground Caribou. The absence of the gall bladder seems a very great divergence; yet can any one tell me has our Caribou one?" With regard to the gall bladder I know that Dr. Gilpin has been for some time aware that our Caribou does not possess one, but he has not mentioned the peculiar form of the liver, nor do I think that it has been previously noticed.

* This is not always present.