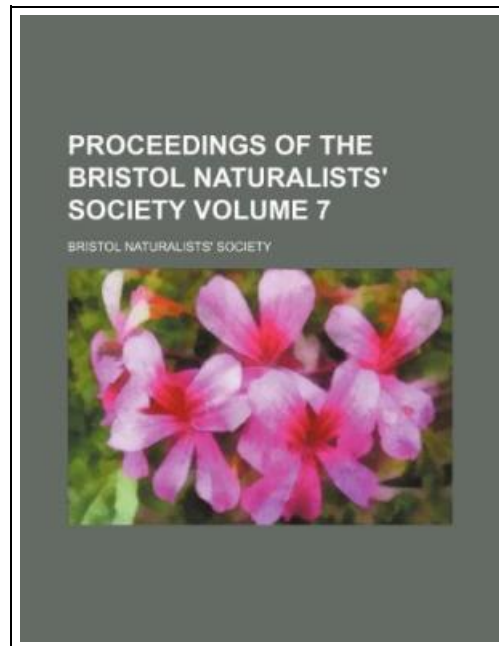


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PROCEEDINGS OF THE BRISTOL NATURALISTS SOCIETY VOLUME 7



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RareBooksClub. Paperback. Book Condition: New. This item is printed on demand. Paperback. 60 pages. Dimensions: 9.7in. x 7.4in. x 0.1in. This historic book may have numerous typos and missing text. Purchasers can download a free scanned copy of the original book (without typos) from the publisher. Not indexed. Not illustrated. 1894 Excerpt: . . . of the hyoid bone. The woodpecker depends to a very large extent on its tongue for procuring its food, and were it not for the wonderful adaptation of its structure, the bird would frequently be compelled to leave a dainty morsel, in the shape of a fat grub, unmolested within its burrow. Whilst staying at a farm in Hampshire during last September, I heard of a practical use to which the dried tongue of the woodpecker was sometimes put; namely, for removing from the throat of young chicken the small worms which cause the disease known as gapes. I think you will agree with me that no better instrument could possibly be devised for accomplishing a purpose so analogous to that for which it was created. We may be thankful, however, that there are simpler and more successful ways of curing gapes than by adopting instrumental measures, as the latter might give another excuse for depriving the woodpecker of its joyful existence. We will now briefly consider a few other characteristic features in the structure of this interesting bird. The breast bone deserves notice on account of the shallowness of its keel; so that the bird can keep its body in close proximity with the trunk of a tree, which position is necessary in climbing. The feet are large in size, and are of the zygodactyl, or yoke-toed modification, i. e. , having two toes projecting forwards and two backwards. It was considered at one time...



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