

JULY, 1867.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held at the Museum on Tuesday, the 9th July, His Excellency Colonel Gore Browne, President, in the chair.

The Secretary, Dr. Agnew, laid on the table the following returns for the past month :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 577.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 837.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens.—From A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, 14 species of seeds. From Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 6 plants. From Mr. R. Henderson, Sydney, 22 plants. From A. Verschaffelt, 92 plants, of which 42 were dead on arrival, and 20 *Achimenes*, of which about one third may recover.
4. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens.—To Botanic Gardens, Sydney, 40 plants. To Messrs. Grant and McMillan, Melbourne, 10 varieties of colonial seeds.
5. Plants supplied for the Decoration of Public Places.—To Campbell Town Church, 36 plants. To Colonel Chesney, for entrance to Domain, 37 plants. To Launceston Gardens, 2 plants.
6. Tench supplied, 12.
7. Time of leafing, flowering, &c., of a few standard plants in Gardens.
8. Presentations to Museum.
9. Periodicals received.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table, &c., for June.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.—Table for May.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story.—Tables for April and May.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.—Table for June.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From the Salmon Commissioners, a large male Trout, which had been reared from ova imported from England.

This fish, which was found dead in the River Plenty, measured 19½ inches in length, and weighed 3½lbs. The cause of death was supposed to be injuries received in fighting with other male Trout—a common circumstance at the spawning season.

2. From H. Hull, Esq., two bones, and rings of trachea of Moa; a collection of human bones, and three specimens of stalactites from sandstone and limestone caves on the River Waiau, Southland, New Zealand.

The Secretary observed that the human bones in this presentation were those of an adult and two children. They were quite recent, and were found on the surface of the floor of the cave, while the bones of the Moa were covered with soil, which had to be cleared away in order to expose them.

3. From the Australian Museum, Sydney, 30 species American freshwater shells. Two casts of upper and lower jaws of *Nototherium* from Darling Downs, New South Wales.
4. From Mr. Coe, a young specimen of the Brush Bronze-wing Pigeon (*Peristera elegans*).

5. From Dr. Story, Swansea, Skin of wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila fucosa*). Ditto of White Hawk (*Astur Novæ Hollandiæ*). Two ditto of Echidna. Two ditto of water Rat. Skeleton of Bird. Curious growth of Asparagus. Ditto of root of the She-oak Tree (*Casuarina quadrivalvis*).

The growth of the she-oak consisted of a large mass of roots, about 4 feet in length, which was found growing between the bark and wood of the tree.

Mr. Abbott, jun., thought that, by some chance, one of the roots had become turned up, and finding, perhaps, an injury in the bark, had been enabled to penetrate between the liber and alburnum; finding there abundance of moisture and support, it had shot forth the large mass of rootlets now before the meeting.

6. From Mr. T. Roblin, skeleton of Native Devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*) mounted.

This valuable specimen was prepared by Mr. Roblin before he was attached to the Museum as Curator.

7. From J. Davies, Esq., a fish of the family *Zeidæ*—probably the Southern analogue of the John Dory of Northern latitudes. It was caught by Mr. Brent, junr., with a line, at Austin's Ferry.
8. From Mr. Schofield, a collection of shells from Wreck Reef.
9. From J. Dickenson, a 2 cent coin of United States of America.
10. From Mrs. Magrath, two coins, one of the French Republic, the other a farthing of Queen Victoria, and 13 polished pebbles from New Zealand.
11. From Mrs. Oldfield, a portion of the Mulberry tree which grew in the Tower of London, and under which were found, in the reign of Charles II, the bones supposed by some to be those of King Edward V. and his brother Richard Duke of York. The specimen is genuine, having been received by Mrs. Oldfield from her father, who was for forty years connected with the Tower as Keeper of the Crown Jewels.

The following extract from a letter from Mr. Edwards, of San Francisco, was read, as some of the Fellows might feel inclined to put themselves in communication with the writer:—"I was then, and still am, earnestly devoted to the study of entomology, but unfortunately, during my brief stay in Tasmania, I could procure but very few of the species of that district. I now write to you for the purpose of proposing an exchange. I will send shells, insects, crustacea, or anything else you may want from this part of the world, and wish to receive in return any coleoptera, or lepidoptera from Tasmania. Can this be accomplished, or do you know any one in your island who would fall in with my views?"

Mr. Abbott read some "Notes on the simultaneous disappearance of Jupiter's four satellites," on the 22nd and 25th August.

After the paper discussion ensued, chiefly in reference to the expeditions contemplated to our hemisphere, for the very important purpose of observing the transits of Venus in 1874 and 1882, and so determining, amongst other matters, the exact distance of the sun from the earth, and other questions depending upon it.

A vote of thanks was subsequently passed to the author of the paper, and the donors of presentations, when the meeting separated.