MAY, 1869.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 11th May, M. Allport, Esq., in the chair.

The following returns for the past month were laid on the table:—

1. Visitors to Museum, 781.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1,567.
3. Plants, &c., received at gardens.
4. Ditto, sent from gardens.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for April.
2. Swansea, from Dr. Story, table for April.
3. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., table for April.
4. Sydney, from G. R. Smalley, Esq., Government Observer, table for February.
5. New Zealand, from the Government Observer, tables for January and February.

The presentations were as follow:—

1. From Mrs. C. Meredith, a Coot (*Fulica Australis*).
2. From Hon. C. Meredith, Esq., two specimens of "Silver Fish" from Prosser's Bay.
3. A Kingfisher (*Alcyone azurea*) donor unknown.
4. From T. Stephens, Esq., a Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*), from Southport.
5. From E. D. Swan, Esq., nest and eggs of *Epthianura albifrons*, found at Cornelian Bay.
6. From Dr. Storey, Swansea, skeletons of Eagle Hawk, Crane, Bandicoot, &c.
7. From Mr. A. J. Taylor, New Norfolk, a copper Coin of French Republic.
8. From Mr. Rollings, Sorell, a Jade Chisel from New Zealand. Flint Implement used by Tasmanian Aborigines for skinning Kangaroo, &c.
9. From M. Allport, Esq., Gelatinous tube of Salpa, and small Crustacean found within it. From Adventure Bay.
10. Ditto, found at sea on the voyage from England, presented by Miss S. P. Edwards.
11. From the Hon. R. Officer, Esq., M.H.A., a set of Maps of Geological Survey of Victoria, 1 vol. bound.

Mr. Stephens called attention to a specimen of Kingfisher (presentation No. 4), which he had brought from Recherche Bay, where it was shot by Mr. Collis, and remarked that it was not included by Gould among the birds of Tasmania.

Mr. Swan remarked that he had for some time been aware of the existence of a second species of Kingfisher in Tasmania, and on examining the bird referred to by Mr. Stephens, had no doubt as to its being a specimen of the sacred Halcyon (*Halcyon sanctus*), whose habitat had hitherto been supposed to be confined to the Australian Continent.

With regard to presentation No. 5 (Nest and Eggs of *Epthianura albifrons*) the same gentleman observed that it was interesting, as proving

beyond a doubt that these birds breed in the colony, they having previously been looked upon as mere casual visitors.

Referring to the crustaceans presented (Nos. 9 and 10), Mr. M. Allport stated that his specimen was picked up alive on the beach at Adventure Bay. At first the animal kept itself so pertinaciously within the clear gelatinous cylinder (resembling in shape a small barrel with the ends knocked out), through which it could be distinctly seen moving about, that he took this cylinder to be a part of the animal, probably some extension of the carapace, analagous to that found in the entomostraca, but further observation showed that the enclosed crustacean was quite free of its beautiful envelope, and that it readily protruded its head and anterior limbs from either aperture. The envelope might be the empty case of one of the Salpæ, a family of floating molluscs, many genera of which are common round our coast, and the crustacean either took up its temporary residence in the already empty case or, as is most probable, had first devoured the softer parts of the mollusc and was on the look out for a second victim. Having preserved the specimen, Mr. Allport showed it some time after to a lady (Miss Edwards), who immediately recognised it as identical with one caught by her in a floating dredge on the voyage from England several years before, and which she had preserved. In order to demonstrate that the crustacean in the first specimen had not chosen its crystal-like home by mere chance, but as a part of the regular economy of this curious animal, Miss Edwards had kindly presented her duplicate specimen to the Museum.

Mr. Allport incidentally remarked that many of the Salpæ from the diaphanous nature of their outer covering, would form beautiful living objects for low powers at one of the Society's microscopic meetings.

Mr. Stephens, in bringing under special notice the fossils from Table Cape, collected and presented to the Society by Mr. Hainsworth, gave a lucid sketch of the geological formation of the portion of the northern seaboard of the island, extending from the Tamar to Circular Head. He then noticed in detail several of the specimens, and pointed out their value in a palæontological point of view. Mr. Stephens also referred to the great value which a more complete series would be to the Museum, and was sanguine that Mr. Hainsworth would still pursue his labours in the cause, and enrich the collection with specimens yet to be discovered.

Mr. M. Allport called attention to a branch of Gum (*Eucalyptus sp.*), kindly forwarded by Lady Dry, the leaves of which were coated with a purple powder, resolving itself, under the microscope, into myriads of eggs of some insect, now rapidly hatching, and probably belonging to the Aphides. Under the low powers of the instrument the brilliant colours of the egg-cases elicited much admiration.

The Chairman (Mr. Allport) after the proposal of the vote of thanks to the donors of presentations, and to Mr. Stephens, for his able remarks on the geology of the North Coast, called the attention of the meeting to one fact, that fixed the geological age of the raised beaches at Table Cape at about the same as the Travertine of Geilston Bay, though one was of marine, and the other of fresh-water origin, viz., the presence in each of bones of existing animals, as evinced by the Wallaby skeleton obtained from the coast formation by Mr. Wm. Archer, and the bones of the Dasyuri, Phalangistæ, and Permales, obtained by himself from Geilston.

After some conversational discussion, the thanks of the meeting were accorded to the donors of presentations, specially to Mr. Hainsworth for his valuable contribution, and to Mr. Stephens for his interesting address.

The meeting then terminated.