

APRIL, 1870.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 12th April, H. Bilton, Esq., in the chair.

W. A. Guesdon, jun., Esq., who had been previously nominated, was duly elected by ballot as a member of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) submitted the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 722.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1846.
3. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorological Returns.*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table and Summary for March.
2. Westbury, from C. Belstead, Esq.—Table for March.
3. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.—Ditto ditto.
4. New Zealand, from the Government,—Ditto for January.
5. Sydney, from G. R. Smalley, Esq.—Ditto for November and December, 1869, and January, 1870.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow:—

1. From Captain Williams, a manuscript newspaper, the *Western Australia Gazette*, June 13th, 1830.
2. From Mr. Watson, Brown's River, a kingfisher (*Alcyone azurea*).
3. From M. Allport, Esq., a Diamond Snake (*Hoplocephalus superbus*).
4. From Miss Sherwin, a Lamprey, from Brown's River.
5. From T. Giblin, Esq., a Fish (*Clinus sp. ?*) from Risdon.
6. From Captain Dart, of the Sapphire whaler, four Sharks' Jaws, a Crustacean, a small Pilot Fish, and a Native Hen, from Howe's Island.
7. From Captain Forsyth, brig Waverley, a Snake and Lizard, from Java.
8. From J. W. Graves, Esq., a Cape Barren Goose (*Cereopsis Novæ Hollandiæ*).
9. Two small Falcons (*Falco frontatus*), donor unknown.
10. From W. Knight, jun., Esq., samples of Cinnabar ore, from Cudgegong, New South Wales.
11. From Mr. G. Edwards, Oatlands, a White Kangaroo, an albino variety of *Halmaturus Bennetii*.
12. From C. Degraves, Esq., four Fossils from the limestone at Cascades.
13. From Mr. W. Smith, a Flounder curiously marked.
14. From C. Dinham, Esq., a Collection of Mineral Specimens, &c., from Somersetshire and Cornwall, England.
15. From H. M. Hull, Esq., Specimens of Iron Pyrites and Malachite.
16. From Mrs. Makepeace, Swansea, four specimens of Echinodermata, and the egg cases of *Fasciolaria sp.*
17. From Captain Clinch, the jaws of a species of Shark from Twofold Bay.
18. From Mr. McKenna, a living specimen of *Gordius aquaticus*, from New Town Rivulet.
19. From Mr. J. Young, Howrah, a Spider Crab.
20. From Mr. Docksey, three Mineral Specimens, from Adelaide.
21. From Mr. Roblin, a specimen of *Aplysia sp.*, from Cornelian Bay.
22. From Mr. M. Tapfield, a specimen of *Gorgonia*, with species of *Astrophyton* attached.

Mr. Abbott read a paper entitled "Some additional observations on changes which have taken place in the Star  $\eta$  Argus, and its surrounding Nebula."

The paper was illustrated by drawings, showing the present appearance of the star and nebula. Drawings of the same by Sir J. Herschel in 1834, by Mr. Abbott in 1863 and 1868, and by Lieutenant Herschel in 1869, were also exhibited, showing in a striking manner the great and inexplicable changes which have taken place within a few years in this very interesting object.

Some conversational discussion having taken place, the usual votes of thanks were accorded to Mr. Abbott and to the donors of the various presentations, and the proceedings terminated.