

APRIL, 1871.

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

S. Smith Travers, Esq., who had previously been put in nomination, was, after a ballot, declared duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

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

1. Visitors to Museum, 998.
2. Ditto to gardens, 2,034.
3. Leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens.
4. Books and periodicals received.
5. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for March.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., ditto for March.
3. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., ditto for February.
4. Sydney and other stations in New South Wales, from the Government Observer, printed tables for January.
5. Melbourne, from R. L. J. Ellery, Esq., table for February.
6. Great Britain, from the Meteorological Office, London, Quarterly Weather Report, part 2, 1869.

The Secretary read a communication from Dr. E. S. Hall, to the effect that he had been unable to prepare his usual analysis of the meteorological records, &c., in time for the meeting, but giving instead a short abstract of the general results, and promising a full return in a few days.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From Lieutenant Leefe, R.N., a small collection of shells from Fiji.
2. From Mr. S. Dove, a very large Mussel shell from the Derwent, near the New Wharf.
3. From Mr. John Gage, a skull, probably of an Aborigine, found on Mount Direction.
4. From J. Macleanachan Esq., M.L.C., a Carolina Duck (*Dendronessa sponsa*).
5. From Mr. R. Giblin, a Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*).
6. From Mr. M. Allport, a very large specimen of the Mantis, from North Coast of Tasmania.
7. From Sir Robt. Officer, a geological map.

The following letter from Mr. McIntyre was read in continuation of the subject, Alum, which was discussed at the last evening meeting.

“SIR,—Allow me to refer to the observations made at the last meeting of your Society, respecting the sample of stone alum from Brook’s Creek, which I forwarded a few weeks back to the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works. I find that the members present were at a loss as to the quantity of the mineral which could be obtained, the expenses incurred in preparing it for the market, and the expenses attending exportation to Victoria or England. The following I submit is an approximate of the cost :—Raising and crystallizing, 15s. ; transit to Launceston, 40s. ; freight to England, 20s. ; extra commission, &c., 5s. ; total, £4 per ton, and as to quantity thousands of tons are open to view. The quotations in England by last mail are £7 5s. and £8 10s., which would leave a handsome margin to exporters. I may, however, remark that I have written by this mail to several drysalters in Manchester, and when

I receive authentic information, I shall take the liberty of supplying you, on behalf of the Society, with the information I receive.

"I am yours respectfully,

"PETER MCINTYRE.

"Launceston, 29th March, 1871."

The SECRETARY read a paper from the Rev. H. D. Atkinson, of Three Hut Point, entitled, "Some Remarks on the Geology of Bruni Island."

Mr. M. ALLPORT doubted if anything mentioned in the paper warranted the inference that there had been any long geological period of separation between the island and the mainland of Tasmania. The Flora, indeed, indicated a somewhat recent junction, that of South Bruni was identical with that on the opposite shore; the same was generally the case with North Bruni, and no special Flora whatever existed on the island. As to the carnivorous Marsupials he had been told by Mr. Graves and others that the Native Devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*) had been seen in considerable numbers on South Bruni.

Mr. J. DAVIES corroborated Mr. Allport's statement as to these carnivora, as he had himself seen them in the locality indicated.

The SECRETARY called the attention of the meeting to the collection of fruit sent in from the Society's gardens, comprising about 108 varieties of apples, 60 of pears, and 4 of late plums.

Discussion of a conversational character ensued, and the business terminated with a vote of thanks to the Rev. H. D. Atkinson for his paper, and to the donors of presentations.