

AUGUST, 1871.

The monthly evening meeting was held on Tuesday, the 8th August, Morton Allport, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were after a ballot declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society :—The Rev. Brooke Bailey, A. Riddock, Esq., and John A. Jackson, Esq.

The following returns were laid before the meeting :—

1. Visitors to Museum during July, 809.
2. Ditto to Gardens during July, 1,662.
3. Seeds received at Gardens—From Royal Gardens 499 packets of shrub and three seeds (referred to at last meeting), 300 of which are of species not yet under cultivation at the Gardens. Of the balance about 100 varieties will be valuable for exchange.
4. Plants supplied for planting public places.
 - (a.) For Bothwell Church grounds 100 plants.
 - (b.) For Catholic Cathedral grounds, Harrington-street, 192 ditto.
 - (c.) For New Norfolk Asylum grounds 61 ditto.
 - (d.) For Longford Church grounds 80 ditto.
 - (e.) For Cascade Asylum grounds 140 ditto.
5. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum and library.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town—From F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for July.
2. Port Arthur—From A. H. Boyd, Esq., table for June.
3. Westbury—From C. Belstead, Esq., ditto.
4. Swansea—From Dr. Story, ditto.
5. Melbourne—From R. J. L. Ellery, Esq., notes for June.
6. Sydney—From H. C. Russell, Esq., printed tables for May, and “Results of observations for 1870.”
7. Queensland—From the Rev. R. D. Harris, report of meteorological observations for 1869.
8. The SECRETARY read the “Notes on the Meteorology and Mortality in the Hobart Town Registration District during the month of July, 1871,” by Dr. E. Swarbreck Hall.

The presentations were as follow :—

1. From Mr. J. Kelly, 2 Chinese coins, and 1 Persian ditto.
2. From Mr. Schofield, shells from Wreck Reef.
3. From Mr. W. Josephs, Clarence Plains, a curious fish washed on shore in that locality.

[This fish bears considerable superficial resemblance to the *Chaetodons* (beautiful tropical fish). They seem extremely rare in Tasmania, and Mr. Allport stated that he had seen but one other specimen, which was procured on the North Coast by Mr. J. L. Smith, and is now in the Museum.]

4. A Whip Snake (*Hoplocephalus coronoides*) found alive in a hollow log of firewood.
5. From Mr. H. Gomolka, a mineral specimen from Dun Mountain, New Zealand.
6. From Meteorological Department, Board of Trade, London, Quarterly Weather Report, parts 3 and 4, 1869, and Barometer Manual, 1871.
7. From the author, M. Allport, Esq., F.Z.S., &c., additional notes, in continuation of the history of the introduction of the Salmonidæ into Tasmania, from proceedings of the Zoolological Society of London.

The SECRETARY remarked that the question as to the best method of destroying rabbits on runs had become one of extreme importance, not only to the sheepowners of the colony, but to the public in general ; it was one, too, which lay strictly within the scope of the aims and actions of the Royal Society. He had recently learned that Mr. John Bisdee had been very successful in destroying rabbits which had been particularly numerous on his runs ; and he also had been informed by Mr. Maclanachan that he had adopted Mr. Bisdee's method with very excellent results. On communication with Mr. Bisdee on the subject, he (the Secretary) had been favoured with the following observations which he would proceed to read to the meeting. (See page 46.)

Discussion ensued, in which Mr. W. Gellibrand, Mr. Justin Browne, Mr. J. Davies, Mr. Webster, Mr. Barnard and others took part. It having been remarked that rabbits could readily be exterminated if all sheepowners acted in concert, it was suggested it might be necessary to obtain a compulsory Act of Parliament for the purpose of securing united action. It was observed, however, that even this would scarcely be effectual, as it could not readily be brought to bear in the case of Crown lands where the rabbits would still continue to breed.

The SECRETARY intimated that he expected to hear from Mr. Maclanachan on the same subject before next meeting, and he hoped that others also who may have tried experiments in the destruction of rabbits might give him the results of their experience for the purpose of bringing them under the notice of the Society, and thus securing for them due publicity.

Mr. Morton ALLPORT read a paper on the Salmon Trout (*Salmo trutta*) lately sent to England, and a letter, received by last mail, from Dr. Günther on the same subject.

A vote of thanks to the authors of papers, and the donors of presentations, closed the proceedings.