

ROYAL SOCIETY.

JUNE, 1872.

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

The following returns for the past month were brought under notice:—

1. Visitors to Museum, 1,054.
2. Ditto to Gardens 1,500.
3. Plants supplied for decoration of public places :—
 - a. For Church of England grounds, Longford, 70 plants.
 - b. For ditto, Campbell Town, 83 ditto.
 - c. For ditto, Broadmarsh, 84 ditto.
 - d. For ditto, Avoca, 55 ditto.
 - e. For Jews Synagogue, Hobart Town, 64 ditto.
 - f. For grounds of High School, Hobart Town, 64 ditto.
4. Plants received at Gardens. From Melbourne Botanic Gardens 100.
5. Plants sent from Gardens, per Wynaud. To Mons. J. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, six tree ferns.
6. Leafing, flowering, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during the month.
7. Books and periodicals received.
8. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns.—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq. Table and Summary for May.
2. Port Arthur, from A. H. Boyd, Esq. Ditto for April.
3. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq. Ditto, for May.
4. Sydney, from the Government Observer. Printed tables for March and April.
5. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq. Ditto, ditto.

Statistics.—

1. Statistical Summary of Victoria, from 1863 to 1870 inclusive.

The Secretary read the following note, which he had received from Dr. E. S. Hall :—

“Melville-street,
“11th June, 1872.

“MY DEAR DR. AGNEW,—I have had my time so much engaged, that I have not been able to complete my usual Health Report. The deaths were 51, being + 11 1-15th above the June average for the previous 15 years. Curiously enough the female deaths were one more than the male. Only 7 under 20 years old; 15, 60 and upwards. No particular disease prevalent. Great variations of temperature, the principal abnormal condition. The mean daily range of temperature being + 4.94 above the average.

“During the flood last Tuesday, I measured in my rain-gauge 5.91 inches in the 24 hours. In *all* June, 1842, had before the highest rainfall 4.41 inches. In 1854 flood there fell 8 inches in 38½ hours.

“Very truly yours,
“E. SWARBRECK HALL.

“Dr. Agnew, Hon. Secretary
“Royal Society.”

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. F. E. Nichols, Gould's Country. Two specimens of chain cut with a pocket knife from solid pieces of Honeysuckle wood,

2. From Captain Fisher, a Boa found alive on board the brig "Wild Wave," nine days after leaving Sourabaya.
3. From Mr. R. Gatenby, Macquarie River, a Native Devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*.)
4. From Mr. Sydney Thorne, an Egret (*Herodias alba*) shot at Sorell.
5. From Mr. Roblin, specimens of Echinida and Haliotis, from East Coast, Tasmania.
6. From Mr. R. J. Lucas, a fish from Sandy Bay (*Cheironectes politus*.)
7. From Mr. G. Wilson, sample of Tin Sand from the Ovens, Victoria.
8. From Mr. Conrad Sidelin, a Copper Medal of Peter the Great of Russia; a Danish Copper Coin.
9. From the author, Baron F. Von. Müller, *Fragmenta phytographiæ Australiæ*. Vol. 7.

The SECRETARY called attention to a specimen of the Whistling Duck (*Dendrocygna eytoni*), lately received from Bridgewater, being, as far as was known, the second of the kind found in Tasmania. It appeared, however, that it was perhaps becoming more common, others of the same species having been recently heard of at Sorell. It was formerly supposed their true habitat was the north west coast of Australia, where they were very common. They are also found on the lagoons in the interior (*Gould's Birds of Australia, Handbook vol. II., p. 376.*) That the range of habitat, however, of this beautiful duck extended further than was formerly supposed, was evident by the fact that it was found in New Zealand, both on the Thames on the Northern, and as far south as Otago on the Southern Island. (*See Catalogue of Birds of New Zealand, by F. W. Hutton, page 35.*)

Dr. AGNEW brought under the notice of the meeting two specimens of diatomacea (*Licmophora sp.*), discovered by Mr. Hannaford on Tasmanian algæ, and beautifully mounted for the microscope by Mr. Harrop, of Launceston.

Mr. F. ABBOTT read a paper entitled, "Observations on some additional changes which have taken place in the Nebula surrounding the star η Argus."

Discussions of a conversational character ensued, and the meeting terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Abbott, and to the donors of presentations.