

AUGUST, 1874.

The monthly evening meeting was held on Tuesday, the 11th August, the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Tasmania in the chair.

The hon. Secretary (Dr. AGNEW) submitted the following returns :—

1. Visitors to Museum during July, 1,174.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 2,739.
3. Seeds received at Gardens—From Captain W. Willett, 22 packets.
From T. Liddbetter, Esq., Bombay, 32 packets.
4. Plants supplied from Gardens for the decoration of public places :—
For the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, 154 plants ; for Government House grounds, 36 plants.

Meteorological Tables.

1. Hobart Town—From F. Abbott, Esq., table for July.
2. Port Arthur—From J. Coverdale, Esq., ditto.
3. Mount Nelson—From the Marine Board, ditto.
4. King's Island—From ditto, monthly tables, January to June.
5. New Norfolk—From W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., table for July.
6. Melbourne—From R. J. L. Ellery, Esq., tables for April.

The presentations to the Museum and Library were as follows :—

1. From the Hon. Mrs. Du Cane—10 skins of New Zealand birds.
2. From Mr. Edward Gates, Richmond—Skin of Kiwi (*Apteryx sp.*), from New Zealand.
3. From Mrs Chas. Lamb, Jerusalem—A fine wedge-tailed eagle (*Aquila audax*) ; spread of wings, 5 feet 7 inches.
4. From Mr. S. J. Baynton—Specimen of wood completely honey-combed by insects. Casts, probably of roots of trees, from the mouth of Cloudy Bay lagoon, South Bruni.
5. From Mr. C. Headlam, Macquarie River,—A Maned Goose (*Chlamydochen jubata*) shot in that locality.

[In reference to this presentation, Mr. Allport remarked that these beautiful birds were first noticed on the upper Derwent about eight years ago, and, as numerous examples have been seen since that time, they may now be considered as acclimatised in the colony.]

The probable range of habitat of the Maned Goose, as given by Gould, extends across the Australian Continent between the 25th and 30th degrees of South Latitude.

6. From Mr. Chas. Hewitt, Connorville, Lake District, a very large Native Tiger, (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*).
7. From J. J. Bayles, Esq., Macquarie River, two specimens of the grey Flying Squirrel, (*Belideus sciurus*).
8. From R. M. Johnston, Esq., 14 specimens of fossil woods, &c., from Launceston, with a paper.
9. From Mr. E. Hodgson, portion of brick with cement, and two specimens of scoria, from Pompeii.
10. From Captain Copping, 2 specimens of vegetable Ivory.
11. From Master Bennett, per J. W. Graves, Esq.—A Coromandel Quail (*Coturnix Coromandelica*).
12. From W. A. B. Gellibrand, Esq., M.L.C.—Fossil Sharks teeth from the limestone, Oamaru, New Zealand.
13. From T. B. Clarke, Esq., Quorn Hall—A large Forester Kangaroo (*Macropus major*).
14. From the Trustees, British Museum—Catalogue of Fishes (Günther), Vol. 2. Ditto (hand list) of Edentata, Thick-skinned and Ruminant Mammals. Hand list of Shield Reptiles. Catalogue of Hemiptera Heteroptera, parts 6, 7, 8.

15. From the Zoological Society of London—Proceedings of the Society 1872, parts 2, 3 ; 1873, parts 1 and 2 ; Index, 1861 to 1870.
16. From the Geological Society, London—Quarterly Journal, Vol. 29, Nos. 114, 115, 116 ; Vol. 30, No. 117.
17. From the Linnean Society—Journal of the Society, Vol. 13, Nos. 69 to 72 ; Vol. 14, Nos. 73 and 74, *Botany* ; Vol. 11, No. 56 ; Vol. 12, No. 57, *Zoology*. "Proceedings" of Session, 1872-3.
18. From the Royal Asiatic Society—Journal, Vol. 6, part 2.
19. From the Royal Geographical Society—Journal of Society, Vol. 42, bound ; Proceedings, Vol. 16, No. 5 ; Vol. 17, Nos. 1, 2 ; Vol. 18, No. 1.

Presentations from America—

1. From the Commissioner of Patents, Washington—Patent Office Reports for 1869, Vols. 1, 2, 3 ; 1870, Vols. 1 and 2 ; 1871, Vols. 1 and 2.
 2. From the Secretary U. S. Sanitary Commission—Report of the Commission in the Valley of the Mississippi during the War of the Rebellion, 1861-66.
 3. From the Secretary, War Department, Washington—Report of the Chief Signal Officer for 1872. (Meteorology.)
 4. From the Smithsonian Institution Report, 1871—"Miscellaneous Collections," the Toner Lectures, No. 1, "On the Structure of Cancerous Tumors," by J. J. Woodward ; Directions for collecting and preserving insects. "Dorpat and Pulkova Observatories."
 5. From Dr. F. V. Hayden, United States Geologist—Bulletin No. 1 Geological Survey of the Territories ; Report of Secretary for the Interior, 1873 ; Synopsis of New Vertebrata from the Tertiary of Colorado, 1873 ; Meteorological Observations in Utah, Idaho, and Montana, 1872 ; Lists of elevations in portion of U. States West of Mississippi River, 1st 2nd and 3rd Annual Reports of the Geological Survey of the Interior. "Acridæ of North America," by C. Thomas Ph. D. ; "Contributions to Extinct Vertebrate Fauna of the Western Territories," by Joseph Leidy.
 6. From the United States Naval Observatory, Washington, "Astronomical and Meteorological Observations" 1871, 1 Vol. 4to, bound.
 7. From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, "Proceedings," Vol. 8.
 8. From the American Philosophical Society, "Proceedings," Vol. 12, No. 88, Vol. 13, Nos. 90, 91.
 9. From the Boston Society of Natural History, "Proceedings" Vols. 13, 14, Vol. 15 parts 1 and 2.—"Memoirs," Vol. 2 part 1, Nos. 2 and 3, Vol. 2, part 5, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
 10. From the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia,— "Proceedings," 1871, parts 1, 2, 3.
 11. From the Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences—"Transactions" Vol. 2, part 2.
 12. From the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences—"Bulletin," Vol. 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3.
 13. From the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts—"Bulletin," Vol. 4, 1872.
 14. From Verplauk Colvin, Esq.—"Report on a topographical survey of the Adirondack Wilderness, New York.
 15. From Board of Education, Pennsylvania, Annual Report for 1872.
- The SECRETARY read a paper on "The Launceston Tertiary Basin," by R. M. Johnston, Esq. This was the second paper on the same subject, by Mr. Johnston, and was illustrated by several drawings by the author.
- Mr. M. ALLPORT said it was hardly possible to say much about so

elaborate a paper on merely hearing it read through, for its full value could not be appreciated until it was printed and carefully perused. The specimens of silicified wood so frequently met with as worn pebbles in many parts of the country must have been subjected to far rougher usage than those leaves, beautiful impressions of which are found in the ferruginous deposits of the Tamar Valley, and these pebbles, derived from earlier rocks, probably belonged to very different geological ages. In the valley of the Derwent, large silicified stems of trees were found in situ, in the carboniferous sandstones, and he had always believed that the one so long known as "Barkers fossil tree" at Macquarie Plains, and which was embedded in a mass of basalt, had been first released from the carboniferous rocks, and then picked up by the molten, or semi-molten basalt. The temperature of the adjacent basalt might thus account for the partial vitrification of that beautiful fossil, no trace of which is now left—it having been ruthlessly chipped away by barbarous collectors, but not before it was ascertained to have been a pine. The travertine referred to at Geilston Bay, near Risdon, was [of very recent origin, perhaps, as suggested by His Lordship the Bishop, even post-tertiary, because a large percentage of the fossil flora in it undoubtedly belonged to existing species; and those yet undetermined may upon further research prove to be in the same category. The bones in the same deposit all belong to existing mammals, and of the molluscs three at least are now living. Before attempting to fix the exact position of any of our tertiary strata, much more must be done, in the way of collecting the fossils and comparing them with existing species, than has yet been attempted; and great credit is due to the author of the paper for the light he is endeavouring to throw on the [subject. Mr. Allport therefore had much pleasure in moving that the special thanks of the meeting be given to Mr. Johnston for his interesting paper, and the beautiful drawings which accompanied and illustrated it.

Mr. C. H. GRANT, in seconding the motion, referred in eulogistic terms to the great zeal, ability, and industry of the writer of the paper under discussion. When it was published, he hoped to have an opportunity of considering the various points touched upon. Whether he could agree with them all or not he could not say, as he was well aware it was a very difficult matter, in geological research, to arrive at sound conclusions. This, in most instances, and especially in new countries, could only be done by great research, and long and elaborate observations. Nothing was more seductive to the young and enthusiastic observer than to draw conclusions, which subsequent discoveries might show had been prematurely arrived at. He hoped Mr. Johnston would continue his researches, and favour the Society from time to time with the results.

After some complimentary remarks on the paper, by His Lordship, the motion was passed, as well as the usual vote to the donors of presentations. The proceedings then terminated.

[The attention of the meeting was called to the very valuable donation of books from the Trustees of the British Museum, and also to the large number of scientific publications received, in exchange for the Society's Transactions, from the United States Government, the Smithsonian and other Institutions in America.]