ROYAL SOCIETY.

MARCH, 1875.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 9th March, M. Allport, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had previously been nominated by the Council, were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society, viz., His Honor Sir Francis Smith, the Rev. Thos. Kelsh, Messrs. John Kenrick Lewis, H. A. Perkins, and C. Dowdell.

Professor W. Harkness, of the United States Naval Observatory; Henry Heylin Hayter, Esq., Government Statist, Victoria; Fredk. M. Bailey, Esq., Brisbane, Queensland; and A. Thozet, Esq., Botanist, Rockhampton, were elected as corresponding members.

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) laid before the meeting the usual monthly returns as under:—

1. Number of visitors to Museum in January, 1,579; in February, 1,221.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 3,893; ditto, 2,923.
3. Plants, &c., received at and sent from Gardens during January and February.
4. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during February.
5. Books and periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., tables for January and February.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., ditto ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, from Marine Board, ditto ditto.
4. Goose Island, from ditto, table for January.
5. Port Arthur, from J. Coverdale, Esq., tables for January and February.
6. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq., B.A.—Printed tables for September, 1874.
7. Melbourne, from R. L. J. Ellery, Esq.—Ditto, for August, 1874.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows—

1. From Mr. H. G. Lloyd, New Norfolk.—Three specimens of wood, and three of fossil wood, from Queensland.
2. From F. A. Blackman, Esq.—Two snakes, 1 lizard, 1 bat, 1 large beetle, and a collection of land and fresh water shells, from Warro, Port Curtis, Queensland.
3. From the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods.—Three specimens of gold from Devonian Rock, Smithfield Reef, Gympie, Queensland.

[Remarkable for being in close proximity to fossils (Devonian), and occurring partly in quartz and partly in greenstone. The gold is not pure, as will be seen from its colour, containing ten per cent. of silver, and traces of copper, lead and iron.]

4. From C. E. Morton, Esq., Grafton, New South Wales.—A female specimen of a species of "Walking-leaf Insect," probably *Extatosoma tiaratum. (See British Museum catalogue of Orthopterous Insects, part 1; "Phasmidæ," page 170, plate 8, supplement.)*

5. From Mr. R. J. Harris, Sorell.—A large Black Snake *(Hoplocephalus curtus).*
6. From M. Allport, Esq.—A smaller ditto.
7. From "Jonah," a native teacher from Samoa.—A model of a Samoan fishing canoe, made by him when in Tasmania, and presented through the Rev. G. Brown, Wesleyan missionary. A large sheet of Tapa cloth.
8. From Mr. D. Hancock, O'Brien's Bridge.—A specimen of *Spirifera bisulcata*, from slope of Mount Wellington. [An unusually large and very perfect example of the fossil.]
9. From J. W. Graves, Esq.—A bivalve shell *(Crassatella castanea)* from the North Coast of Tasmania.
10. From Mr. J. Ferguson.—A crab from Tinder Box Bay.
11. From Mr. S. H. Wintle.—Samples of iron ore, limestone, and coal, from the River Don, Tasmania.
12. From J. Simpson, Esq., *Mercury* office.—Sample of stream tin, from Mount Horror, Dorset, Tasmania.
13. From Mr. E. N. Spong.—A collection of sponges, rock specimens, portion of old telegraph cable, &c., &c., from King's Island.
14. From Mr. C. H. Hall.—Specimen of tin in lode, stream tin, tin nuggets, gallena, antimony, &c., from Mount Bischoff.
15. From Mr. F. J. Davies.—Samples of tin, antimony, silver ore, peacock copper ore, &c.—From Stanthorpe, Queensland.
16. From Col. Crawford.—Sample of tin smelted from Mount Bischoff ore.
17. From H. Hopkins, Esq.—20 Chinese "cash." A "Caltrop"—A sharp four-pronged instrument used in the late war by the Chinese for scattering about the ground to embarrass the advance of hostile troops.
18. From Mr. Lewis, Geelong.—A large Echinus, from the Pacific.
19. From Master H. Hull.—Egg of the Native Companion, or Australian Crane *(Grus Australasianus.)*
20. From Mr. W. L. May, Muddy Plains.—A curious marine incrustation on shell of Pecten, from Frederick Henry Bay.
21. From W. A. Kermode, Esq.—Two samples of salt from Saltpan Plains, Mona Vale.
22. From His Excellency F. A. Weld, Esq.—Two Lizards from Western Australia. A collection of ornaments, nets, and other implements made by the Aborigines of that colony.
23. From John Macfarlane, Esq.—Two specimens of the "Glass Thread Sponge" *(Hyalonema mirabilis)*, from Japan.

[The Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods made some observations on this very remarkable object, and expressed his intention of giving further details in reference to it at the next meeting.]

24. From N. J. Browne, Esq., M.H.A. — Specimens of Opalized Wood from Meadow Banks.
25. From Mr. Prescott—Two specimens of the gladius or "pen" of a species of Squid.
26. From the Hon. J. Maclanachan, Esq.—A Mountain Duck *(Casarca tadornoides).*
27. From Mr. Hissey.—Skin of the "White Bird" of Kerguelen's Land *(Chionis necrophaga).*
28. From Mrs. Buckland.—A framed portrait of the late Sir Henry Young.

The following presentations to the Library were reported :—

From the Royal Colonial Institute.—Proceedings for 1873-4.

From the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods.— "Hume's overland journey from Lake George to Port Phillip, 1824." Roots, &c., used as food

by the Aboriginals of Northern Queensland ;" by A. Thozet. "Extract from Bulletin of the Acclimatisation Society of France, July, 1872." "Lectures delivered at Industrial and Technological Museum, Melbourne, 1872." "Hortus Kewensis, Epitome to ;" by W. T. Ayton, 1814. "Geology of Queensland,—Notes on, by R. Daintree, F.G.S."

From the author, F. M. Bailey, Esq., "Handbook of Queensland Ferns."

From the author, Professor A. Liversidge, Sydney University, "Iron and Coal deposits at Wallerawang, New South Wales." "Nickel Minerals from New Caledonia" (two pamphlets.) "On Dendritic Spots." "The Bingera Diamond Field." "The Deniliquin, or Baratta Meteorite."

From the Royal Society of New South Wales.—"Transactions," 1872-3.

From the Malacological Society of Belgium.—Reports of Proceedings of vol 8, 1873 ; vol.3, 1874.

From the Entomological Society of Belgium.—Transactions of, series 2, Nos. 1, 2, 3, Nos. 96 to 100.

From the Department of Agriculture, United States. — Annual Reports of Department for 1870-1-2 ; monthly ditto for 1871-2-3.

A specimen of Argentiferous Galena, accompanied by the following memorandum, and forwarded by Mr. S. H. Wintle was exhibited. "This specimen of argentiferous galena is Tasmanian, and according to Melbourne assay yields I am assured, 82 per cent. of combined metal, of which 48 per cent. is silver. The actual locality is not at the present time made known to the public. I have not been able to find time to make any test of it myself, but regarding it from its outward appearance it justifies all that has been said of it."

A subsequent communication from Mr. Wintle was read to the effect that the specimen submitted for analysis was a picked one, and as far as he could judge from a rough assay with the blowpipe, the sample of the ore exhibited yielded little over 60 per cent. of combined metal—silver being a little in excess of the lead.

Dr. AGNEW read a note from Mr. W. A. B. Gellibrand mentioning that in reply to some enquiries directed to Mr. L. C. Miall, of Leeds, he had recently received from England, a pamphlet and some papers upon wool, together with the following note :—

"Keighley, Nov. 30th, 1874.

"Dear Miall,—The best authority that I know has been in London at the sales for some time back or I would have replied earlier. As to New Zealand wools ;

"1. It is better to wash with cold water if the fleece will 'scour' or cleanse well ; if it will not scour, tepid water and little soft soap must be used.

"2. The wool must be washed before shearing the sheep ; thus the wool dries easily and naturally.

"3. The fleece should not be 'sorted,' that is, made into different qualities, but only the dirt and locks taken off. Every spinner has his own idea of the kind of division he requires in the qualities of the fleece.

"4. Wool that is 'dumped,' or hard packed, is not really injured, but the idea is prevalent among importers that it does not sell so well ; as the *appearance* of the wool is injured by pressure. Herewith you have printed information from the Chamber of Commerce, and

remarks in the two reports containing replies to former enquiries on similar subjects.

"Yours very truly,
"JOHN BRIGG."

[The pamphlet and papers will be left on the table at the Museum for the inspection of any person who may wish to peruse them.]

The Rev. J. E. Tenison WOODS, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., a corresponding member of the Society, read a paper "On some Tertiary Fossils from Table Cape." [In alluding to the various works which he had occasion to consult when writing his paper, the author took occasion to compliment the Society on the richness of its library. He was both astonished and pleased at being able to refer to so many authorities, and it was evident that great care and intelligence had been exerted in forming a collection of books, of which, especially when the limited number of its members was considered, the Society had certainly just reason to be proud.]

A short discussion ensued, after the reading of the paper, in which the members expressed their extreme gratification at the help given by it to the subject of Tasmanian palæontology. In answer to several questions from Bishop Bromby, Mr. Woods stated that the Cretaceous formation, upper and lower, were extensively found on the western side of the dividing range in Northern Queensland. He added that fossiliferous beds of all the leading formations were found in Australia, including the Oolite, Lias, and Trias.

A special vote of thanks was then moved by Bishop Bromby to the reverend gentleman for his able and interesting paper. He was sure the members of the Society would agree with him in saying that their thanks were more especially owing because the author was known to have left himself but little leisure for such studies from the higher and holier labours to which, as every one knew, he had so completely dedicated himself, and at a time when barely recovered from a long and serious illness, he had made this effort to fulfil a former promise to them. The present instance was one which showed how the highest interest in the cause of God was combined with ardent admiration and knowledge of God's works, and it must command their warmest commendation as well as their thanks. Mr. Barnard seconded the motion, which was carried by acclamation, and the meeting separated.