

## NOVEMBER, 1875.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, the 8th November, His Excellency the GOVERNOR in the chair.

Captain Langdon, R.N., and Mr. Richard Crosby, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society.

The following returns were brought under notice :—

1. Visitors to Museum during October, 1,471.
2. Visitors to Botanic Gardens during October, 3,620.
3. Time of leafing, etc., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during October.
4. Books and periodicals received.
5. Presentations to Museum and Library.

*Meteorological Returns :*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for October.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Coverdale, Esq.—Table for September.
3. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Table for October.
4. Mount Nelson, from the Marine Board—Table for October.
5. Goose Island, from the Marine Board—Tables for August and September.
6. King's Island, from the Marine Board.—Tables for July, August, and September.
7. Kent's Group, from the Marine Board—Table for September.
8. Sydney, from the Government Observer—Printed abstracts of observations made in New South Wales, July, 1875.
9. Melbourne, from the Government Observer—Printed abstracts of observation for May.

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

1. From the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods—A collection of Queensland ferns, named.
2. From A. Simpson, Esq.—5 samples of Tin Ore from Georges' Bay.
3. From the Japanese Commissioners to Melbourne Exhibition—Transverse and longitudinal selections of Japanese Woods, with native and scientific names, mounted in book form—12 packets of seeds from Japan.
4. From Justin Browne, Esq.—A collection of Tasmanian copper tokens.
5. From Mr. C. Anderson—A young snake, probably *Hoplocephalus superbis*.
6. From the Rev. Thos. Reibey, M.H.A.—A Bronze Medal of Captain Cook, date 1772, left on one of the Society Islands and brought home many years ago by Captain Thomas Reibey, sen., of the brig "Mercury."
7. From Mr. Fergusson, Tinder Box Bay—Two Egg cases of a Ray.
8. From Mr. Banning, East Bay Neck—A very large Egg of domestic fowl. This egg measures  $8\frac{1}{2}$  inches at its greatest, and  $7\frac{1}{4}$  inches at its least circumference, and has another egg within it. The donor also sent a duck's egg remarkable for its unusually small size.
9. From M. Allport, Esq.—A young Diamond Snake (*Hoplocephalus superbis*).
10. From Mr. J. Brock, Campania—Two specimens of fossil wood.
11. From the Hon. J. R. Scott, Esq., M.L.C.—Sample of coal picked up on Pebbly Beach, Port Davey. (See Mr. Scott's paper on Port Davey, read at September meeting.)
12. From Mr. Stump—A silver coin,  $\frac{1}{2}$  dollar, Mauritius 1820.
13. From J. Swan, Esq.—Two specimens of Native Bread (*Mylitta Australis*).

Presentations to Library.—From the Magnetic and Meteorological Obser-

vatories, Toronto, Canada, "Reports for 1874," "Abstracts and results of observations 1841 to 1874." From the Meteorological Office, London, "Quarterly Weather Report, part 3, 1873," "Instructions in use of Meteorological Instruments, 1875." From Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia, "Proceedings 1874, parts 1, 2, and 3." From the Rev. W. B. Clarke, M.A., F.G.S., etc., "Remarks on the Sedimentary Formations of New South Wales," and the "Address to the Royal Society of New South Wales, 1875," by the donor. From the Exhibition Commissioners, Melbourne, the "Official Catalogue of the Intercolonial Exhibition, 1875, 3rd edition."

Mr. M. ALLPORT, in the absence of the hon. secretary, called attention to the beautiful series of lithographs of the tertiary fossils from the north coast of Tasmania, executed by Mrs. Meredith from her own original drawings, and pointed out that the value of the Rev. Julian Woods' paper on these fossils was materially enhanced by the skilful work of the talented artist.

The Rev. J. E. TENISON WOODS in introducing his paper "On some new and hitherto undescribed Shells of Tasmania," remarked that his list though a large one for novelties, where so much had been done, might require considerable augmentation. He had only dealt with the univalves so far, and could hardly say even that he had thoroughly examined all these. Some short time ago Mr. Legrand of Elizabeth-street, had invited him to make a critical list of all the Australian Mollusca, offering for the purpose to place at his disposal, his collection, which certainly was one of the largest, if not the largest in the colonies. Such a list for all Australia, though a great desideratum, was far beyond the limits of the time which he (Mr. Tenison Woods) could give to it. He had offered, however, to make such a list for Tasmania only, that is :—1st. To establish the nomenclature of such species as were described, and give leading references to the works containing them. 2nd. To give briefly the characters of all the shells. 3rd. To describe for scientific purposes such as were new. The first result of this enquiry had been a monograph on the Freshwater Mollusca which would appear in that year's Transactions of the Society. After about three months' labour he had gone through the collections of Mr. Legrand, besides small collections of Mr. Justin Browne, Mr. Stephens and others, and the present list of over 70 univalves new to science was the first result of the examination. He did not doubt that the number would yet be increased, and therefore he would request the Council of the Society not to print the present paper in the Transactions of the current year, not only that he might have an opportunity of making it more complete, but in order that it might appear side by side with the complete catalogue which he hoped to have ready for the March meeting. He asked permission of His Excellency and the members to express at the same time his many obligations to Mr. Legrand in preparing the list, not only because that indefatigable collector had placed his specimens at his disposal, but also because he had spared no pains in the examination of references, besides bringing his own valuable experience and local knowledge to bear on the matter. He thought that Mr. Legrand should justly share with him whatever credit there was due for their scientific inquiries. Mr. Woods then went on to point out what had been done for Australian conchology, and passed in review the labours of Linneus, Lamarck, Quoy, Gaimard, Deshayes, Crosse, G. Angas, Dr. Cox, and A. Adams. He showed that though no separate list of Tasmanian Mollusca had been published, yet Mr. G. F. Angas's list for South Australia, and the far more elaborate list for S.E. Australia in the Zoological Proceedings for 1865 and 1867 respectively, had materially lightened the labours of any naturalist for Tasmania. He then described the boundaries and peculiarities of the so-called Australian molluscan province, and showed how it might be divided into sub-provinces which

would be nearly conterminous with the colonies of South Australia, Victoria, New South Wales, and Tasmania. He particularised the characters of the Tasmanian sub-province, and showed how it might be sub-divided into the northern part of the island and the islands in Bass' Straits, which was of a Victorian character, and the South Tasmanian which was peculiar with a very large admixture of East Australian, and a small influence of New Zealand shells. Mr. Woods further described the features of the new shells brought thus under notice, which were for the most part small, but nevertheless yielding many new *Mitre* and novelties as *Patella*, *Diala*, *Alaba*, *Turbonilla*, *Purpura*, *Cominella*, *Drillia*, *Mangelia*, *Siphonalia*, etc. He expressly called attention to a new species of *Crossca*, the fourth known, two others being from Japan and one from Port Jackson. Mr. Woods explained that he had written his paper both in Latin and English. He regretted the space thus taken up, but it had been generally established that new investigations of a purely scientific character, should, in order to their universal reception, be published in Latin, to be thus accessible to scientific men of every nation. As however a Latin description might not be so accessible to investigation in Tasmania he had given the paper in both languages, thus hoping to make the publications of the Royal Society as useful to their fellow colonists as to the world. He trusted that the paper would be one of many which would tend to make the Royal Society as valuable an institution as that of any colony; and if any credit redounded to him for his labours he was glad to think it would be largely shared by the members who had so willingly co-operated with him in them.

Mr. M. ALLPORT moved the usual vote of thanks to the donors of the various presentations, and especially to the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods for his valuable paper on the Marine Shells, and for the highly interesting remarks with which the same was accompanied. Also to Mr. Legrand, without whose services the work would scarcely have been possible, Mr. Woods having already explained how greatly he was indebted to Mr. Legrand for the loan of specimens, and for copious information as to localities, etc.—information which no other man in Tasmania could have afforded.

The vote having been carried *nem. con.*, the Rev. JULIAN WOODS moved that the special thanks of the Society be conveyed to Dr. J. Cox, of Sydney, for the loan of a valuable type collection of Australian Marine shells, and alluded to the difficulty of obtaining such a favour from most scientific collectors.

The motion was unanimously agreed to, and the meeting terminated.