

JULY, 1876.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 11th July, His Excellency, F. A. Weld, Esq., C.M.G., President, in the chair.

E. J. Manley, Esq., who had previously been nominated by the Council, was, after a ballot, declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of Visitors to Museum, 1377.
2. Ditto ditto to Botanic Gardens, 2871.
3. Plants and Seeds received at Botanic Gardens—From Mr. G. Farnsworth, Matlock, England, 300 seedling Rhododendrons, all living. From Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, America, 63 packets of seeds, principally Coniferae. From Mr. S. Purchase, Parramatta, Sydney, 60 plants. From Dr. Carl, Wellington, N.Z., 6 packets seeds. From Messrs. Nardy and Co., Hyeres, France, 16 packets of seeds.
4. Plants and Seeds sent from Gardens—To the Acclimatisation Society, Paris, 12 packets of seeds. To Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, one case of plants. To Mr. S. Purchase, Sydney, a box of seeds.
5. Plants supplied for decoration of public places—To the Queen's Asylum, a collection of flowering plants. To the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, 180 plants.

*Meteorological Returns* :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for June.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto.
3. Port Arthur, from Dr. Coverdale.—Ditto.
4. Mount Nelson, table for June; Goose Island, ditto for May—From the Marine Board.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. J. J. Martin—Specimen of Limestone from Dunedin, New Zealand, used extensively for building purposes.

[The Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods observed that the same kind of stone occurred in South Australia. It was composed of carbonate of lime with a little silex, and was full of Foraminiferous shells. The chalk of Dover Cliff's was a similar formation, as was also the Globigerina ooze deposit now going on at great ocean depths, as shown by the Challenger dredgings. The specimen, however, though similar to, was probably of an older formation than the Australian—most likely of the Lower Cainozoic.]

Samples of Lignite and Coal from Green Island, Greymouth, Shag Point, and Kaitangata, New Zealand.

2. From Dr. E. Crowther.—A specimen of the Nankeen Night Heron (*Nycticorax caledonicus*) from George's Bay.
3. From D. M. Barnard, Esq.—Specimen of the Yellow-bellied Beaver Rat (*Hydromys chrysogaster*).
4. From the Belmont Company.—A collection of Tin specimens from the lode, Cascade River, Ringarooma.
5. From Mr. J. Keen, Kingston.—A sample of a deposit consisting of a brilliant scaly substance, resembling mica, the nature of which has not yet been determined. A specimen of the clay from which the deposit was obtained by washing.
6. From Mr. F. Edwards.—Tusk of a large Boar, shot in New Zealand.
7. From Mr. R. M. Williams, Sydney, per Mr. Justin Browne, crystals of oxide of tin, and two sapphires, from Queensland.
8. From R. M. Johnston, Esq.—A collection of Tertiary Fossils from the Table Cape beds, named and classified by the Rev. J. E. T. Woods, F.G.S.

In reference to a specimen of *Cyathaea medullaris*, presented by S. B. Emmett, Esq., Circular Head, for the Royal Society's Gardens, Mr. STEPHENS

remarked that the Society was under great obligation to the donor for having forwarded another specimen of this Tree Fern, the first having died. It was especially interesting from the fact that its proper habitat is New Zealand, and only one small group is known to exist in Tasmania, deep in one of the dense forests near Circular Head.

Mr. BARNARD exhibited a section of the stem of a cherry tree showing the burrow, several inches in length, of a destructive caterpillar, with the animal still in situ. Mr. Barnard had noticed a blight on the cherry tree for the first time last year, but this was the first occasion on which he had seen the caterpillar. It would be of great interest, he thought, to determine the character of the moth which would eventually be produced.

Mr. J. SWAN had seen the same caterpillar on more than one occasion on the pear tree also.

The Rev. J. E. TENISON WOODS, after giving a very clear and exhaustive address on the history of Australian Geology, read a paper by Mr. R. M. Johnston entitled, "Notes on the Tertiary Marine Deposits of Tasmania." The paper, which was of a most elaborate character and illustrated by a large series of specimens, was most favourably commented upon by the reader, and was listened to with marked attention by the meeting.

Mr. STEPHENS said that the Table Cape fossiliferous beds had been mentioned by Strzelecki as a "raised beach bedded on basalt;" but that he had shown in a paper read before the Society in 1869, after a cursory inspection of the locality, that they were clearly older than the basalt, and that the fossils proved them to be connected with the tertiary deposits of Victoria. He regretted that the author of the very interesting and valuable paper which had just been read was unable to be present, for there were still some points requiring consideration before the exact relationship of the marine beds to the igneous and other rocks of the neighbourhood could be positively determined; and these they could not discuss satisfactorily in his absence.

After a short discussion the cordial thanks of the meeting were (on the motion of Mr. STEPHENS, seconded by Mr. ALLPORT) accorded to Mr. Johnston for his valuable paper, and to Mr. Woods for his admirable address.

A vote of thanks to the donors of presentations closed the proceedings.