

JUNE, 1878.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 11th June, C. H. Grant, Esq., in the chair.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual monthly returns, viz.,

1. Number of visitors to Museum during May, total 2,313.
2. Number of visitors to Gardens during May, total 4,266.
3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens:—From Dr. Hector, Wellington, New Zealand—6 packets seeds; from Mons. J. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium—30 species ornamental forest trees, about two thirds of which are alive; from H. M. Hull, Esq.—nine species of seeds received from Landreth & Sons, Philadelphia; from the Royal Gardens, Kew—90 varieties of seeds.
4. Plants sent from Gardens.—To Mons. J. Linden, Belgium, four tree ferns.—To Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, one case plants.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.
7. Time of leafing etc., of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during May.

*Meteorology*—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott Esq.—Table for May.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Abstract tables for January, February, March, April and May.
3. Bruny Island and Mount Nelson, from the Marine Board.—Tables for May.
4. New Zealand, from Dr. Hector.—Printed tables from various stations, August, 1877, to February, 1878. From Wellington—Tables from November, 1876, to April, 1878.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows:—

1. From Captain Hutton, Dunedin, New Zealand.—23 prepared skins of New Zealand birds.
2. From Mr. E. J. Baynton, Brown's River.—A white hawk (*Leucospiza Novae Hollandiae*).
3. From the Rev. G. B. Richards, Horton College, per T. Stephens, Esq.—Two fruit pigeons, from Duke of York Island.
4. From C. G. Beddome, Esq.—A fine prepared skin of the Goura pigeon, from New Guinea; a pair of shell armlets, and a carved calabash, used for holding Chunam, made by natives of New Guinea.
5. From Aug. Simson, Esq.—Some fine specimens of crystals of oxide of tin, from Marie Louise and Kunarra claims, Gould's Country.
6. From T. Smith Wright, Esq., Glenorchy—Specimens of tapa cloth, worn by Fijians. A Fijian necklace.
7. From D. Lewald, Esq.—A grey African parrot (*Psittacus erithacus*).
8. From C. G. W. Lloyd, Esq., New Norfolk—A large grub, with a curious fungoid growth from near the head. [This specimen is analogous to the so-called "Vegetable Caterpillar," of the colony (*Cordiceps Gunnii*), but the fungus itself is very different in form, being short, thick, and broad, instead of stem-like.]
9. From C. M. Maxwell, Esq.—Portion of the top of a pile from the wharf, with a treenail hole filled by a fungus which had grown there.

The SECRETARY called special attention to a very valuable work—“Researches on the Fossil remains of the Extinct Mammals of Australia,” by Professor Owen—which had just been placed by Government in charge of the society for the purpose of easy reference by naturalists and others. The illustrations were shown to be most profuse, consisting of 132 plates and 62 wood-cuts. To this work the learned Professor had devoted his attention for the last 30 years; and in the prospectus he states “Only

300 copies have been printed, and the stones effaced, for as it is a work of reference chiefly, the number of copies has been limited to the estimated utmost demand. Its chief utility will be as a means of comparison, available in Australia and Tasmania, to the coming generation of colonial investigators of the Natural History and Geology of those countries; and to know that a copy was in the library of every public institution, where it might be accessible to such, would be the most gratifying return to the author.

Notice having been taken of the rare Ribbon fish recently caught on the North Coast, at Penguin Creek, the SECRETARY mentioned that Mr. Morton Allport, after a careful comparison of it with Dr. Günther's description of *Regalecus gladius*, had no doubt it was the same species. A similar fish had been washed on shore at Circular Head in 1856, and a drawing of it presented to the Museum by Dr. W. Story.

Mr. E. D. SWAN observed that Professor McCoy had determined the specimen to be a closely allied species, the *Regalecus Banksii*. A sketch of the fish (which measured 14 feet in length and about one foot in depth), by Mr. R. M. Johnston, and drawings from other sources of the allied Ribbon fishes of the Mediterranean, were laid on the table.

Conversational discussion, in which Mr. Grant, Mr. E. D. Swan, and Mr. E. J. Crouch took part, ensued as to presentations Nos. 1 and 4, and on other subjects.

A vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. HORTON SCOTT, to the donors of presentations closed the proceedings.