NOVEMBER, 1879.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, November 11. John Swan, Esq., in the chair.

The Secretary (Dr. AGNEW) brought under notice the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of Visitors to Museum.—On Sundays, 798 ; on week days, 859. Total, 1657.
2. Do. to Gardens.—Total, 5356.
3. Books and periodicals received.
4. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for October.
2. Mount Nelson and Bruni Island, from the Marine Board—Tables for October.
3. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq.—Printed report for July, 1879.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. W. Legrand, Specimen of a Crinoid (probably *Pentacrinus Caput-Medusæ*), from the West Indies. [In reference to this presentation the Secretary read the following extract from Nicholson's Manual of Zoology :—"Of the living stalked Crinoids the best known is the *Pentacrinus Caput-Medusæ* of the Carribean Sea. More recently a stalked Crinoid has been discovered in the Atlantic and North Sea, and has been described under the name of *Rhizocrinus Lofotensis*. The chief interest of this form is the fact that it belongs to a group of the *Crinoidæ*, hitherto believed to be exclusively confined to the Mesozoic rocks, viz., the *Apiocrinidæ*, or "Pear-encrinites." In fact, *Rhizocrinus* is very closely allied to the Cretaceous genus *Bourgueticrinus*, and it may even be doubted if it is generally separable from it. The late remarkable researches into the life of the deeper parts of the ocean have brought to light several new Crinoids, which will doubtless, when fully investigated, still further fill up the interval between the living and extinct Crinoidea."]
2. From Mr. A. K. Johnson, Etheridge River, Queensland.—A net Head Dress, and a Bag, made by the aboriginal women of the Gilbert River District, North Queensland. [In reference to the "Bag," the donor states, in a note accompanying the presentation, that it is made of wool "evidently from an old traveller's scarf, pulled to pieces and twisted up again."]
3. From Mr. R. Hill.—A Sample of Coal from Port Cygnet.
4. From the Rev. T. McDowell.—Three Specimens of Auriferous Quartz, from the "New Chum" claim, Beaconsfield.
5. From H. M. Hull, Esq.—The Minute Book of "The Society of Van Diemen's Land," 1841. This was the original minute book of the old Tasmanian Society, which flourished under the auspices of Sir John Franklin, and from which the present Royal Society had its origin.
6. From E. D. Swan, Esq.—A Complete Suit of Japanese Armour. This presentation was examined with much interest. The helmet is of iron, artistically constructed, and with its appendages weighs not less than seven pounds. The other defensive armour, which is confined to the chest, arms, and thighs, consists chiefly of thin plates of metal, covered with lacquer and fastened to strong woven material.

The Secretary laid on the table a pamphlet, by Mr. Moscrop, of London, in which the writer lays claim to the discovery of the now well-known fact that the development of fish ova can be considerably protracted by the application of cold, by means of ice. [Mr. Moscrop's claim has been strongly denied, and further information on the subject will be adduced at next evening meeting.]

Mr. Augustus Simson exhibited several specimens of the beetle or perfect insect (*Otiorhynchus sulcatus*, Fab.), the grub of which has of late been so destructive to the strawberry plant. Mr. Simson had only looked for and obtained the insect on the previous day, and hoped soon to be able to furnish further information about it. In the meantime, as the beetle has not yet emerged from the cell in which it underwent its last transformation, the insect might to a great extent, if not altogether, be destroyed by taking up the dead plant, with the soil below it to the depth of three or four inches and burning it. At present the insect will be found mostly in a little cell in the Pupa or Chrysalis state, in which condition it is of course inactive. A few have not yet reached this stage and are still grubs, and some have recently become beetles. As this last change will take place rapidly in all when rain falls, no time should be lost in putting the above method of destruction into vigorous operation. The insect belongs to the family of the *Curculionidæ*, or "Elephant Beetles."

After further conversational discussion, the usual vote of thanks, proposed by Mr. Simson, and seconded by Dr. Crouch, was accorded to the donors of presentations, when the proceedings terminated.