

# PROCEEDINGS.

APRIL, 1882.

A monthly meeting of the Society, the first of the present session, was held at the Museum, on Monday, April 17. Mr. Justin McC. Browne in the chair.

Mr. W. F. Ward, Government Analyst, who had previously been nominated by the Council, was balloted for, and declared unanimously elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. BARNARD) brought forward the usual returns, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum, January—On Sundays, 634 ; on week days, 1,400 ; total, 2,034. Do. February—On Sundays, 613 ; on week days, 1,022 ; total, 1,835. Do. March—On Sundays, 499 ; on week days, 969 ; total, 1,468.
2. Do. Gardens, January, total, 7,577.  
Do. do. February, total, 6,383.  
Do. do. March, total, 5,536.
3. Plants, etc., sent from and received at Gardens :—  
January—Received from De Smet Freres, Ghent, Belgium, 2 cases Rhododendrons, Clematis, and Peony. From Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, United States, 55 papers of seeds. From Baron von Mueller, Melbourne, bulbs of *Crinum uniflorum*. Sent to De Smet, Ghent, 7 Tree Ferns.  
February—Received from Mr. Kayser, Mount Bischoff, seeds of *Acacia rhombifolia*. Sent Mons. J. Linden, Ghent, 6 Tree Ferns. Received from Vilmorin, Andrieux, et Cie., Paris, 11 packets seeds.  
March—Received from Vilmorin, Andrieux, et Cie., Paris, 10 packets seeds. From Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A., 16 packets seeds. Sent to Messrs. Law, Somner, and Co., Melbourne, seeds of *Clanthus*. To Mons. August von Geert, Ghent, 6 Tree Ferns. To De Smet Freres, Ghent, 6 do.
4. Books and Periodicals received, January, February, and March.
5. Presentations to Museum.

## Meteorology.

1. From the Marine Board, Hobart. Tables from Mount Nelson for January, February, and March ; South Bruny for January and February ; Goose Island, do. ; Swan Island, King's Island, and Kent's Group, for January.
2. From Mr. Roblin. Tables of results of Meteorological Observations taken at the lighthouses and Mount Nelson during the year 1881.
3. From Mr. F. Abbott, jun. Monthly tables of Rainfall at Society's Gardens. During January, 1'06in. ; February, 1'01in. ; and March, 0'65in.
4. From Mr. Kayser. Do. at Mount Bischoff during March, 3'34in.
5. From Mr. D. C. Purdy. Do. at Macquarie Harbour, do., 2'09in.
6. Rainfall at Mount Nelson, January, 1'64in. ; February, 1'51in. ; and March, 0'49.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during January, February, and March :—

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| January | 8. <i>Veronica angustifolia</i> in full flower. |
| „       | 10. Apricots commenced to ripen (Roman).        |
| „       | 16. <i>Grevillea robusta</i> in full flower.    |
| „       | 18. Jargonelle Pear ripe.                       |

January	24. Black Mulberry commenced to ripen.
February	10. Kerry Pippin Apple do.
"	15. Windsor Pear do.
"	20. Bon Chretien Pear do.
"	22. Green Gage do.
"	25. Ash commencing to shed seed.
"	27. Sycamore do.
March	14. Seckle Pear commencing to ripen.
"	16. Tips of Hornbeam commencing to turn.
"	18. Coe's Golden Drop Plum ripe.
"	28. Horsechestnut leaves turning brown.
"	28. Ash leaves turning yellow.
"	30. Oak leaves commencing to fall.
"	31. Tips of Elm turning yellow.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From Mr. J. A. Clark, Franklin. Stalactite, from a recently discovered natural tunnel, running through a hill on the Craycroft River, Huon district.
2. From Mr. V. Johnston. A specimen of the " Ribbon Fish " (*Trachypterus a'tivelis*), caught off Darlington, Maria Island, East Coast Tasmania.
3. From Mr. S. P. H. Wright. Specimens of the various strata passed through in boring for water at The Grove, Glenorchy.
4. From Mr. A. P. Canaway. Specimens of the paper money (Assignats) of the First French Republic (1793-1805).
5. From Mr. John Page. Nine Snake Skins, from the Eastern Marshes.
6. From Mr. D. M. Barnard. Skin of Black Snake (*Hoplocephalus curtus*), from Beaconsfield. In a note which accompanied this specimen, the donor states that "The snake was originally 6ft. in length, the skin is now 5ft. 10in., without head, and allowing for shrinking."
7. From Mr. J. Barnard. 89 Copper Coins and Tokens, and 4 Silver Coins. [Among the latter is a Specimen, in excellent preservation, of the "dump" struck from the centre of the Dollar, and formerly in circulation in the colony. It bears the date 1813, and its value, 15 pence, is stamped on the reverse side.]
8. From Master Stephens. Two specimens of *Unio Moretonicus*, from the Lake River.
9. From Miss Lodder. 73 Species of Marine Shells, from North Coast, Tasmania.
10. From the Trustees, Australian Museum, Sydney. 108 Specimens of Foreign, and 121 of Australian Birds, mounted; three Heads of Egyptian Mummies.

Presentations to Library :—

- 1 From Captain W. V. Legge, R.A. Two Photographs of the Chaldean Account of the Deluge, taken from Terra Cotta tablets found at Nineveh, and now in the British Museum, with translation and text by George Smith, of the Oriental Department, British Museum.
2. From Trustees British Museum, Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 6.
3. From the Government of Victoria. A descriptive Atlas of the Eucalypts of Australia (*Eucalyptographia*), 5th Decade, by Baron von Mueller, K.C.M.G.

The SECRETARY called special attention to the extent and value of the donation (No. 10) from the Trustees of the Australian Museum, as an act of great liberality, especially coupled with the promise of a future gift of skins of New Guinea Birds, whenever mounted specimens are available for the purpose. "In exchange, the Trustees would be

glad to receive skins or skeletons of Thylacines (Native Tigers), and skulls or skeletons of small Whales; also, fresh water Fishes and Crustaceans."

The SECRETARY read a letter from Baron F. von Mueller, K.C.M.G., with a short paper entitled, "Remarks on the Vegetation of King's Island."

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON, F.L.S., followed with a "Note and Description of the first discovered representative of the Genus *Pupa* in Tasmania," with a drawing of the Shell.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to the writers of the papers and to the donors to the Museum, making especial mention of the presentation of Birds from the Australian Museum, and of Shells from Miss Lodder.

At 8 o'clock the members adjourned to the upper rooms of the Museum, when an exhibition of the telephone took place, at which a number of ladies were present by invitation. Mr. R. Henry, the superintendent of telegraphs, conducted the proceedings, and commenced by giving a lucid and interesting description of the construction and uses of the instrument. Communication was made with Pearson's Point, Mount Nelson, and Battery Point; the extreme distance traversed being about 20 miles. The experiments were very successful, and afforded much gratification to those who witnessed them. Twelve telephones were employed on the occasion, by which means the various messages and replies were made audible to a number of persons simultaneously. In addition to conversation held between the several stations, music and singing were introduced, the airs being distinctly heard in the room.

In conclusion, Mr. Henry gave explanations of the working of the phonograph and microphone, which were attentively listened to.

## MAY, 1882.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 9th May, His Honor Mr. Justice Dobson, V.P., in the chair.

Mr. Fleetwood Wilson was balloted for, and declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. BARNARD) brought under notice the following Returns for the month of April, viz.:—

1. Number of Visitors to Museum—On Sundays 959, on week days 777; total 1,736.
2. Ditto to Gardens, total 4,880.
3. Plants and seeds received at and sent from Gardens.
4. Presentations to Museum.
5. Books and periodicals received.

### *Meteorology.*

1. From Hobart Marine Board. Tables from Swan Island for March, South Bruny for do., and Mount Nelson for April.
2. From Captain Shortt, Meteorological Observer. Mean of Observations taken at Hobart during April, 1882. Result of Rainfall at Southport during do.
3. From Mr. H. W. F. Kayser. Register of Rainfall, at Mount Bischoff do.
4. From Mr. F. Abbott, jun. Do. at Botanic Gardens do.

The following are the results of the observations above referred to :—  
Hobart, April, 1882.

Barometer—Mean, 29.695.