

JULY, 1882.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 12th July, Mr. C. H. Grant in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had previously been nominated by the Council, were balloted for and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society, viz. :—Mr. William Lees, of the Union Bank ; and Mr. C. W. Chapman, of Cascades.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. BARNARD) submitted the following returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of Visitors to Museum—On Sundays 719, on week days 802 ; total 1,521.
2. Ditto to Gardens—Total 3,722.
3. Plants and seeds received at Botanic Gardens:—From Mr. Barnard, seeds of *Wistaria megasperma*. From the Hon. J. MacLachlan, seeds of a variety of *Cedrus Libani*. From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, 14 packets of seeds. From the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 30 plants. From Messrs. Heyne and Co., Adelaide, 24 packets of seeds.
4. Plants and seeds sent from Gardens :—To Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, collection of seeds. To Mr. J. Smith, Riddell's Creek, Victoria a collection of seeds and plants. To Mr. R. J. Lynch, Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, collection of seeds. To Botanic Gardens, Brisbane, Queensland, seeds of *Eucalyptus Globulus*. To Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux, et Cie., France, collection of seeds. To the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A., collection of seeds. To the Royal Gardens, Kew, collection of seeds. To Mr. W. Bull, London, ditto. To Baron von Müeller, Melbourne, ditto. To Messrs. Shepherd and Co., Sydney, collection of seeds and plants. To Mr. J. Latham, collection of seeds. To Dr. James Hector, Wellington, New Zealand, ditto.
5. Books and periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. Hobart, from Captain Shortt, Government Observer, table for June.
2. Table of Rainfall at various stations in Tasmania, from ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, from the Marine Board, table for June.

The following are the results of observations above referred to :—

Hobart, June, 1882 :—

Barometer—Mean, 29·776in.

Thermometer.—Means. Max., 58·2deg. ; Min., 33deg. ; Dry bulb, 45·6deg. ; Wet bulb, 43·2deg.

Humidity.—Dew Point Mean, 40·4deg. ; Humidity, 823 ; Elastic force of vapour, 251.

Condensation.—No of days on which rain fell, 13 ; Amount collected, 2·41in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount 6 (scale 0·10).

Wind.—Prevailing direction, Westerly ; Mean force, 1·5lb. (scale, 0·12).

Remarks.—Rain on 13 days ; the heaviest registered was 1·38in., at 9 a.m. on the 20th. Highest temperature in the shade, 58·2deg., on the 28th. The lowest, 33deg., on the nights of the 9th and 15th. On the morning of the 16th, a very heavy fall of snow, from two to three inches deep. Light snow falling at intervals for 30 hours. Before the snowstorm the barometer had been falling slowly and steadily day by day, from the 5th ; at 9 a.m. the barometer, then 30·387in., rose a little for 30 hours on the 8th and 9th, then fell slowly to 28·923in., its lowest, on the 15th ; with heavy squalls and rain from the westward, lulling early in the morning, when the snow commenced falling heavily. The Comet has been observed a few nights only at Hobart (though seen

frequently in the northern part of Tasmania), on account of the cloudy evenings. It showed a well-defined nucleus, and a tail of about 3deg. in length, nearly vertical; visible about N.W. by W., between 5 and 6 p.m. A few days of strong westerly winds, but light winds and calms prevailed during the remainder of the month.

J. SHORTT, Government Meteorologist.

Rainfall in Tasmania, June, 1882 :—

Circular Head, rain fell on 9 days, amount 1·17in.

Oatlands, rain fell on 9 days, amount 1·27in.

On 16th, 7in. of snow.

Falmouth, rain fell on 4 days, amount ·76in.

Mount Bischoff, rain fell on 17 days, amount 5·59in.

On 16th, heavy fall of snow.

Southport, rain fell on 13 days, amount 3·89in.

Low Heads, rain fell on 8 days, amount 1·55in.

Macquarie Harbour, rain fell on 13 days, amount 4·34in.

Botanic Gardens, Hobart, rain fell on 12 days, amount 1·88in.

Hobart City, rain fell on 13 days, amount 2·41in.

Mount Nelson, rain fell on 6 days, amount 1·84in.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during June, 1882 :—

15th. *Maclaura aurantiaca* leaves commencing to fall.

18th. Common Privet ditto.

20th. *Calycanthus præcox* commencing to flower.

24th. *Crocus vernus* ditto.

30th. *Pyrus japonica* commencing to flower.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From Mr. R. C. Weeding, Mount Seymour. A specimen of the Grey Flying Opossum (*Belideus sciureus*), from that locality.
2. From Mr. Thomas Ransom, Fingal. A specimen of the Owlet Nightjar (*Egotheles Novæ Hollandiæ*).
3. From Mr. A. Dowling, Melton Mowbray. A living specimen of the Chestnut-faced Owl of the colony (*Strix castanops*).
4. From the Hon. the Colonial Secretary. A specimen of the buoyant mattress used in the Italian Navy, with letter from the Italian Consul, Melbourne, on the subject.
5. From Mr. J. E. Baynton. A specimen of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*), shot near Mount Nelson, on July 6. [In reference to the Fan-tailed Cuckoo, Gould states that it "is a migratory species, arriving in Tasmania in September, and, after spending the summer months therein, departing northward in January and February." Its occurrence in the colony in the depth of winter is therefore remarkable.]
6. From Mr. G. Innes. Specimen of Huon Pine (*Dacrydium Franklinii*), and Red Pine (*Athrotaxis selaginoides*), from Macquarie Harbour, in which locality an extensive bed of the latter timber has been discovered.

Mr. BARNARD read "Some further Notes on the economic value of the aquatic plant, *Tipha latifolia*," illustrating its utility as a material for stuffing buoyant and life-saving mattresses in the case of shipwrecks and disasters at sea.

Some conversation ensued, and an examination was made of the sample mattress, with a general expression in favour of its introduction into the marine service, its value being recognised from the fact that it was in use in the Italian Navy.

A vote of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Barnard for his paper, and to the donors of presentations, the meeting terminated.