28th. Ash commencing to break.
29th. Grape vines do.
29th. Sycamore do.
30th. Robinia pseudo Acacia do.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From Mr. S. H. Wintle. A collection of Fossils from the Rock House estate, St. Paul's River.
2. From Mr. A. J. Taylor. Specimens of Garnet from Mount Heemskirk.
3. From Mr. Schofield. An Egg, probably of a species of Petrel, embedded in Guano, from Bird Island.
4. From Mr. Moore. Specimen of Aragonite from a cutting through greenstone at Elboden-place, Hobart.
5. From Mr. J. R. McClymont. 18 silver and 32 copper coins.
6. From Mr. James E. Salier. Jaws of a large Shark.
7. From Mr. D. Carson. A "Bleeding Heart" Dove (*Phlogœnas cruenta*).

The following papers were read :—

1. "Description of some New Marine Shells of Tasmania." By Lieut. C. E. Beddome, I.N.
2. "Notes on two species of rather rare Fish recently captured in the Derwent ; viz., *Clinus despicillatus* a species of the Blenny family, and *Bovichthys variegatus*." By R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.
3. "Descriptions of hitherto undescribed Antechini and Muridæ inhabiting Tasmania." By Mr. E. T Higgins, M.R.C.S. Eng.; and Mr. W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the authors of the papers read, and to the donors of presentations.

NOVEMBER, 1882.

The usual monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 14th November ; Mr. T. Stephens, V.P., in the chair.

Mr. Wyatt Hickling, who had previously been nominated by the Council, 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 past month ; viz.:—

1. Number of visitors to Museum—On Sundays, 1,217 ; on week days, 794 ; total, 2,011.
2. Number of visitors to Botanic Gardens—Total, 5,600.
3. Seeds received at Gardens.
4. Books and periodicals received.
5. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorology :—

1. From Captain Shortt, Government Observer. Abstract table of observations taken at Hobart for October. Table of rainfall at various stations in the colony during October.
2. From the Marine Board. Tables from King's Island for August, September, and October ; Swan Island for June, July, and August ; Goose Island for August, September, and October ; Kent's Group for July, August, and September ; Mount Nelson and South Bruny for October.

The following are the results of the Hobart observations for October :—

Barometer.—Mean, 29·718 inches.

Thermometer.—Means : Max., 72 ; Min., 37·5 ; Dry Bulb, 55·5 ; Wet Bulb, 51·1.

Humidity.—Dew Point: Mean, 47 ; Elastic Force of Vapour, ·323 ; Humidity, ·922.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 13 ; amount collected, 3·79 inches.

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

Wind.—Mean force, 2·5 (scale 0-12); prevailing direction, N.W. and S.E.

Remarks.—Rain fell on 13 days; the heaviest fall, 1·45in., was registered at 9 a.m. on the 20th. The highest temperature in the shade was 72 on the 18th ; the lowest 37·5, on the nights of the 21st and 27th. The lowest reading of the barometer was 29·207in., at 3 p.m. on the 1st ; the highest 30·139in., at 9 p.m. on the 27th. Strong winds from W. and N.W. on the 6th and 10th. The Comet is becoming much fainter. The planet Venus has been frequently visible to the naked eye, in daylight, during the month. A very heavy fall of snow occurred at Oatlands on Thursday, the 17th, covering the ground, in some places, to a depth of seven inches.

Rainfall in Tasmania during October, 1882:—

Hobart, rain fell on 13 days, amount 3·79in.

Southport, rain fell on 12 days, amount 3·50in.

Low Heads rain fell on 12 days, amount 1·31in.

Botanic Gardens, Hobart, rain fell on 12 days, amount 3·16in.

Oatlands, rain fell on 15 days, amount 1·95in.

Falmouth, rain fell on 7 days, amount 1·68in.

Circular Head, rain fell on 12 days, amount 2·56in.

Mount Bischoff, rain fell on 21 days, amount 6·27in.

Fingal, rain fell on 7 days, amount 1·39in.

Waratah and Macquarie Harbour for September, rain fell on 24 days, amount 8·63in.

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

5th. Carpinus betulus commencing to break.

14th. Ailanthus glandulosus ditto.

15th. Morus niger ditto.

16th. Common Lime ditto.

18th. Elm ditto.

20th. Melia azederach ditto.

Presentations to Museum :—

1. From Mr. William Knight, M.A. 12 coins, viz.: 1 franc piece (silver), French Republic, 1851 ; three half, and three quarter annas (copper), India, 1835 ; one ditto, 1858 ; three ditto, 1862 ; one 5-cents, Ceylon, 1870.
2. From Mr. G. Dinham. Portion of cloth unrolled from the mummy of an Egyptian priest.
3. From Mr. A. S. Raiker, Campbell Town. A copy of the *Mercurius Caledonicus*, the first newspaper printed in Scotland, dated 1661. A silver egg-cup and spoon, a silver teaspoon, and pair of sugar tongs, formerly the property of an officer on board Captain Cook's ship when on the voyage round the world.
4. From Mr. E. D. Swan. 140 specimens of shells, 5 ditto of birds, mounted, and a collection of insects, from Fiji ; 25 specimens of shells and a lizard (*Pygopus lepidopus*) from New South Wales ; and 8 Tasmanian birds, mounted.

[The Secretary drew special attention to this valuable collection of objects of natural history from Fiji and New South Wales, presented by Mr. E. D. Swan, and observed that that gentleman set an admirable example to Fellows of the Royal Society, when visiting foreign countries, not to forget the Society when opportunities offered, for adding to the contents of the Museum, and thus helping to make it more and more

attractive, to the youth of the colony especially, in an educational point of view.]

The attention of the meeting was directed to a magnificent specimen of topaz, discovered by Mr. S. H. Wintle on the claim of the North Mount Cameron Tin-mining Company, and kindly forwarded by him to the Museum for exhibition. This specimen weighs 4lb., is of a pale blue colour, very transparent, apparently without flaw, and shows the form of crystallisation very perfectly.

The CHAIRMAN read a letter which he had received from Mr. Ward, Government Analyst, who, he said, had kindly undertaken to examine the West Tamar Asbestos, and to compare it with the manufactured product which had been exhibited in the shape of a specimen of packing for steam joints. The results of analysis are as follow :—

(A)

	West Tamar Asbestos.	"Packing."
Silica	41·80	38·88
Magnesia	36·22	31·68
Iron Protoxide	8·28	6·84
Water lost at 212 F.	1·00	—
Do. lost at red heat	12·70	22·60
Lime	none	traces
	100·00	100·00

(B)

Results calculated minus loss on ignition :—

	West Tamar Asbestos.	"Packing."
Silica	48·43	50·23
Magnesia	41·97	40·93
Iron Protoxide	9·60	8·84

In reference to (B), Mr. Ward says :—"I have also calculated them out minus the total loss on ignition, thus getting a much fairer comparison, as the 'packing' contained oil as well as water. The results show that, so far as chemical composition goes, there is nothing against the use of the Tasmanian mineral for similar purposes. The composition in each case closely resembles that of some varieties of serpentine, and not that of hornblende.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON, F.L.S., read a description of a new species of Fish (*Lophotes Guntheri*), caught near Emu Bay, Tasmania.

Mr. JOHNSTON then read the concluding portion of his paper on the Fishes of Tasmania, which had been held over from a former meeting.

The SECRETARY referred to the elaborate and exhaustive paper on the Fishes of Tasmania which had just been concluded by Mr. Johnston, and regretted the absence of several members who had been present at the previous meetings when the two former parts had been read, and who, it was anticipated, would have joined in the discussion upon the whole subject when completed. It had been hoped also that the paper might have been printed in the interim, to facilitate the discussion. Mr. Barnard added, that the Society, as well as the colony, are highly indebted to Mr. Johnston for his valuable contribution to this important division of natural history, as, to his own personal knowledge, the publication in the "Tasmanian Journal of Science," some forty years back, of an article by Dr. Richardson, on the Fishes of Port Arthur, was followed up by an earnest application from the writer to the then Lieut.-Governor, Sir John Franklin, to procure and send home specimens of all new varieties of fish that could be procured from our waters ; and ever since a more comprehensive account of our Fishes has been deemed a *desideratum*. This has now been accomplished by Mr. Johnston, who enumerates 190 species of Fish as known to Tasmania. Mr. Barnard

then referred to the economic uses of the fish which abound on our coasts, and that this catalogue, in pointing out the best species for the purpose of being cured and exported, will prove a most useful guide in promoting trade and foreign commerce; and he concluded by moving the thanks of the Society to Mr. R. M. Johnston for his valuable papers, to Mr. W. F. Ward for his analyses of the specimens of Asbestos, and also to the various donors of contributions to the Museum during the past month.

Mr. NAPIER remarked that many years ago a large trade was done by some Chinese in the treatment of fish for exportation.

The vote of thanks, moved by Mr. BARNARD and seconded by Dr. E. J. CROUCH, was then put to the meeting and carried unanimously.

Mr. JOHNSTON, in acknowledging the vote of thanks, spoke of the labours of those who had preceded him in the same path, and especially mentioned the late lamented Mr. Morton Allport as having contributed largely to the Ichthyology of Tasmania; and he then drew the attention of the meeting to some exquisite drawings of certain Fishes, by Mr. H. J. Graham, which he had brought down for exhibition.

The meeting, which is the last for the session of 1882, then closed.