

JULY, 1890.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum on Monday evening, July 14th. The President, His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., presided.

NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Alexander Montgomery was elected a Fellow.

LIST OF ADDITIONS TO THE LIBRARY.

The following list of additions to the Royal Society's Library during the month of June were read:—

Acta Horti Petropolitani Tomus XI. Fascinus 1.—From the Society.
Annual Report of the Department of Mines, New South Wales, for the year 1889.—From the Department.

Archives du Musée Teyler, Serie II., Vol. II., 1886; Vol. III., 1887; Serie II., Vol. III., 1889.—From the Department.

Boletin Mensual del Observatorio Meteorologico del Colegio Pio de Villa Colon, Montevideo. From the Society.

Bollettino della Societa Geografica Italiana. Serie III., Vol. III. Fasc. III. Mazo, 1890. From the Society.

Boletino del Instituto Geografico Argentino. Tomo X., Cuaderno X., XI., XII., Buenos Ayres. From the Society.

Boletino Mensual, Tomo II., No. 5, Mexico. From the Department.

Bulletin of the Museum of Comparative Zoology at Harvard College, Cambridge, U.S.A. Vol. XVI., No. 7. The Topography of Florida, by N. S. Shaler. No 8. On some occurrences of Ottrelite and Ilmenite Schist in New England, by J. E. Wolff. Vol. XIX., No. 1. Studies on Lepidosteus, part I., by E. L. Mark. No. 2. On the egg membranes and Micropyle of some Osseous fishes, by C. H. Eigenmann. No. 3. Reports on the results of dredging under the supervision of Alexander Agassiz in the Gulf of Mexico, 1877-8, etc. XXXII. Report on the Nudibranchs, by Rud. Bergh. From the Department.

Californian State Mining Bureau, Ninth Annual Report of the State Mineralogist for the year ending December 1, 1889.—From the Department.

Cyclone Memoirs Part II, Bay of Bengal Cyclone of August 21, 28, 1888.—From the Department.

Fondati on Teyler, Catalogue de la Bibliothèque, dressé par C. Ekama, Cinquieme, Livraison, Paleontologie, Geologie, Mineralogie Botanique, Zoologie, Géographie, Costumes, Voyages pittoresques et Scientifiques.—From the Department.

Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society. Part 2, 1890. From the Society.

Los Agnas Minerales de Chile por el. Dr. L. Darapsky, Valparaiso. From the Society.

Monthly Record of Meteorological Observations for Victoria. From the Department.

Monthly Weather Review, Canada (current Nos.). From the Department.

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society (current Nos.) From the Society.

Observatorio Nacioaal Argentino, vol. XI. Buenos Ayres. From the Department.

Perak Government Gazette (current Nos.) From the Government Secretary.

Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society (new series), vol. XI., part II., 1890. From the Society.

Scottish Geographical Magazine (Current Nos.) From the Society.

Synopsis of the Queensland Flora, containing both the Phænogamous and Gryptogamous Plants. By F. M. Bailey, F.L.S. From the Department.

Transactions of the Royal Geographical Society of Australasia (Victorian Branch). Pt. II. Vol. XII. From the Society.

Transactions and Proceedings of the New Zealand Institute, 1889. Vol. XXII. From Society.

Report, twenty-sixth annual, of the Zoological and Acclimatisation Society of Victoria for the year, 1889. From the Society.

Report, Sydney Free Public Library, for 1889-90. From the Trustees.

Report of the Wellington Acclimatisation Society, for nineteen months ending March 31, 1890. From the Society.

Revista do Observatorio, No. 4. Rio de Janeiro. From the Department.

Verhaudlung der Gesellschaft. Für Erdkunde Zu Berlin. Current Nos. From the Society.

Victorian Naturalist. Vol. VII., No. 1. May, 1890. From the Society.

NATIVE STONE IMPLEMENTS.

Mr. MORTON read a letter which His Excellency had received from Mr. S. S. Rice, London, stating that his friend, Mr. E. B. Tyler, of the University Museum, Oxford, was anxious to procure some of the native stone implements of Tasmania, and asking His Excellency to assist in the matter.

Mr. MORTON stated, in reply to His Excellency, that there was a collection of such stones in the Museum, and also a number in duplicate. Several of the Trustees of the Museum were present, and no doubt the matter would receive consideration at their next meeting.

His EXCELLENCY said that the writer had a great deal to do with the University Museum at Oxford, having evidently made the subject a study. He thought it would be well to send the specimens, if that could be done without denuding our collection.

Mr. C. T. BELSTEAD said he was sure that the matter would receive full consideration from the Museum Trustees.

DREDGING TRIP ON THE DERWENT.

Mr. A. MORTON read some "Notes on a recent dredging trip in the Derwent." He said: "The Tasmanian Fisheries Commissioners having decided to examine the several bays in the River Derwent for the purpose of ascertaining whether as in former times there still existed natural oyster beds, advantage was taken of the opportunity to pay special attention to the marine fauna that might be obtained by means of the dredge. Mr. A. Durrand, F.R.M.S., at present on a visit to Tasmania, who has made a collection of foraminifera from many parts of the Southern seas, accompanied us on our trip. Several bays to the northward of the harbour were tried, but the dredge failed to secure any specimens of oysters, and in only one or two instances did we obtain any dead shells. Although from a commercial point of view the result of the dredging trip proved comparatively a failure, still from a scientific point we were amply rewarded. Instead of finding the oyster a large quantity of pectens or scallops were obtained. As had been pointed out by the Secretary to the Fisheries Commission (Mr. Seager), a large number of this shellfish can be obtained in the River Derwent by means

of dredging, and the quality being equal to the European scallops it is to be hoped that steps will be taken by our fishermen to place in the market this class of shellfish, which would readily find consumers. As the places dredged in were rather far up the river the number of species of mollusca was naturally limited. Several crustaceans, chiefly of the smaller kind, were obtained, one kind being found in great numbers inhabiting the common mussel. This curious little crab has a wide range common to the European seas, but, although found inhabiting the mussel of New Zealand, has not been observed in the mussel found round the New South Wales coast. A large number of species of a delicate Echin were met with, a species which is found to have a very wide range, having been obtained on the N.E. and North coasts of Australia, Japan, S.E. Coasts of New Guinea, East Indies, Cape of Good Hope, New Zealand, and New Caledonia. Some five or six species of sponges were obtained, samples of which he intended to have forwarded to Mr. Arthur Dendy of Melbourne University for identification, as that gentleman is at present paying considerable attention to the spongidia of Australia. Several specimens of foraminifera were obtained. In concluding, he said that from the large number of specimens obtained during the trip, and considering the very primitive and unsuitable dredge in use, he was convinced that a most interesting and valuable collection of marine fauna might be obtained in the Derwent, and accordingly decided during the summer months to carry out a similar system of dredging to that which he was engaged in for the Sydney Museum on the Queensland coast and at Port Jackson during the years 1879, 1881-2. (Hear, hear.)

TASMANIAN MOLLUSCA.

Mr. A. MORTON (for Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.), read a paper on "Provisional aid to the study of the Tasmanian Mollusca." The writer remarked that the student of conchology in Tasmania laboured under a disadvantage in that the description of the various species inhabiting our waters was scattered widely in various publications of Europe and America, while nearly half the number of the principal type species are deposited in foreign museums and are therefore inaccessible for purposes of reference to local students. Much careful work required to be done before we could rest satisfied with existing classification of species, for it was well-known that the specific descriptions of the earlier distinguished collectors who accompanied expeditions to our seas were often too meagre to satisfactorily distinguish or separate them from many allied distinct species subsequently discovered. He suggested that the example of New Zealand should be followed in making up a duplicate collection of our shells as complete as possible, and thereafter submit them to a well-known European authority like Ed. Von Martins, who could critically examine and compare them with original types in European collections, and submit a report for guidance of local workers. If Messrs. Legrand, Petterd, and Beddome, who have so ably worked in this branch of science in Tasmania, and who possess the best local collections, were to engage in a work of this kind under the auspices of the Royal Society of Tasmania, he was satisfied that the very best results would be attained, and we would then prepare the way for the publication of a work on Tasmanian Mollusca upon which thorough dependence could be placed. He alluded also to the labours of the Rev. J. T. Tenison Woods, F.L.S., and the Rev. H. D. Atkinson, of Circular Head, in connection with this study. He gave a comprehensive account of the bibliography of the subject, and for the convenience of local students who are not in possession of works of reference, he added a part devoted to the description of the various families, mainly based upon the late G. W. Tryon's splendid work on

“Structural and Systematic Conchology” (April, 1884). To afford additional facilities to such students he prepared an artificial key to the classes, family, and genera, which he hoped would prove to be of service.

Mr. A. J. TAYLOR expressed regret at the absence of Mr. Johnston through indisposition. Mr. Johnston's writings were not only invaluable in themselves, but specially so as they were generally written with a view to meet the requirements of young students.

THE DOUBLE COCOANUT.

Mr. ALFRED J. TAYLOR read a paper on the *coco-de-mer* (*Lodoicea Seychellarum*) or double cocoanut, which had become interesting of late owing to some misleading paragraphs which had found their way into the English Press regarding it.