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72 pp.

# ROYAL SOCIETY.

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MARCH, 1867.

THE monthly evening meeting of the Fellows (the first of the present session), was held on Tuesday, the 12th March, T. Giblin, Esq., in the chair.

Justin McC. Browne, Esq., who had been previously nominated by the Council, was after a ballot declared duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

The Secretary, Dr. Agnew, laid on the table the following returns received since last meeting:—

1. Visitors to Museum, January, 610; February, 520.
2. Ditto Gardens, Jan., 2,193; Feb., 1,598.
3. Plants and seeds sent from gardens:—
  - To J. B. Young, Esq., Sydney, 35 plants, and 24 papers seeds. (Plants to be returned in exchange.)
  - To Dr. R. Schomburgh, Director of Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, 78 plants, and one bottle seeds.
  - To. M. A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, 4 Tree Ferns.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
5. Books and periodicals received.

Also Meteorological Returns from Hobart Town for January and February, 1867; Port Arthur, for November and December, 1866, and January, 1867; Swansea for September, October, November, and December, 1866; Ross for September, October, November, and December, 1866; and Westbury for November and December, 1866, January and February, 1867.

The Secretary read the usual analysis of the observatory records, with a health report for February, by E. S. Hall, Esq.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows:—

1. From Dr. Agnew, two specimens of Coral.
2. From M. Allport, Esq., an English Perch (*Perca fluviatilis*), caught in the Water Works reservoir.

[The English Perch first spawned in Tasmania in the month of October, 1865, and the fish now presented to the Museum is interesting, as having been reared from the spawn then taken. When first hatched the embryo is merely a white line about a quarter of an inch long, and weighing a fractional part of a grain. This fish (twelve months from the time of hatching), illustrates the rapidity of growth in suitable waters, it being nearly a quarter of a pound in weight].

3. From Captain Clinch, a Spear, a Bow, and six Arrows, from the New Hebrides.
4. From Mr. Crowhurst, a Roman Coin.
5. From C. Gould, Esq., a very large number of Geological and Mineralogical specimens procured by him during the Geological Survey of Tasmania.

[These specimens have been arranged by Mr. Gould in the Geological Museum to which they are a valuable addition.]

6. From Mrs. Hubbard, per Col. Chesney, three ancient Deeds, one of which is of the time of Edward IV., 1482, and another of that of Richard III., 1484. Also two certificates, 1829 and 30.

[These Deeds are in a remarkably good state of preservation, the writing is of great beauty and clearness, and the color of the ink very slightly changed.]

7. From Mr. Masters, Australian Museum, Sydney, 18 prepared skins of Australian Birds, 385 specimens Australian Insects, named, 150 specimens Shells, named, (43 varieties land, 9 ditto marine.)
8. From Dr. Officer, a Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*.)
9. T. Stephens, Esq., 51 prepared Bird Skins from New South Wales.
10. Hon. J. Whyte, Esq., 17 Indian figures.
11. From the Royal Exhibition Commissioners, two blocks of Marble from Bruni Island, 40 Models, in wax, of Tasmanian Apples and Pears, samples of Sperm and Blackfish Oil, and Spermaceti, taken by a Tasmanian Whaler, sample of Gum of Oyster Bay pine. Two bottles containing Oil from leaves of Blue Gum, prepared by Dr. Huston. A slab of Musk wood (*Eurybia argophylla*), two ditto of Oyster Bay Pine (*Callitris Australis*).

The Secretary read a paper entitled "Views on the affinity of *Acradenia*," (see Page ) by Dr. F. Müller, Corresponding Fellow of the Society.

The Chairman then drew the attention of the meeting to the reduction which Government had lately made in the Grant to the Public Gardens. He stated that the Council had already taken action in the matter, and requested the Secretary to report results.

The Secretary stated the facts, and the Council deliberated as to the proper course to pursue, when it was finally carried that the experiment of using prison labor should be tried until the 30th June next.

In answer to a query by one of the Fellows if a grant of the gardens had been issued to the Society, he was informed it had not.

Mr. Buckland asked if, in case of debt accruing from its being found impossible to manage with £400 a year, would the Fellows be liable for the amount? He was informed they would, and also that hitherto, even with the late grant, the gardens had always been a source of loss to the Society. In the course of the last three years they had trenched on the funds of the Society to the amount of £106.

It was resolved that a special general meeting should be held on 21st March to consider the whole subject.

A special vote of thanks was accorded to Dr. Müller for his valuable paper, and the donors of presentations were also thanked for their contributions to the Museum.

The meeting then separated.