

## MAY, 1867.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 14th May, J. Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

The Secretary, Dr. Agnew, laid on the table the following returns for the past month :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 457.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1925.
3. Plants received at Gardens—From the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide, 75, of which 9 were dead on arrival.
4. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens—To A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, 7 large Tree Ferns; to the Sydney Botanic Gardens, 1 case containing 50 Plants, and 330 papers of Seeds.
5. Tench supplied—Mr. Morrison, 12; Mr. Strachan, 12.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations received.

Meteorological Returns—Hobart Town, for April; Port Arthur, for March; Swansea, for March; Westbury, for April.

The Secretary read the usual "Monthly Analysis of the Observatory Records, together with those of Births, Deaths, &c.," by E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. From the Intercolonial Exhibition Commissioners—Photographic portraits of the last remaining Aborigines of Tasmania, three sets, framed and glazed. Two polished slabs of Musk wood, presented by W. Rout, Esq. A block of Marble from Sorell, presented by Miss Glover.
2. From M. George Couraud, of Cognac, through Justin Browne, Esq.—A large collection of Land and Marine Shells (named) from France.
3. From Mr. Maddock, Dunrobin—Specimens of Freshwater Shells (Tasmanian).
4. From J. Barnard, Esq.—A small box turned from wood of the Blue Gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*,) showing the beauty of the grain.

A letter was read from Dr. M'Carthy, of New Norfolk, enclosing a specimen of an indigenous plant, the berries of which on being eaten had given rise to symptoms of poisoning resembling those induced by Belladonna. (The plant is the *Pimelea drupacea*. Natural order, Thymelæ.)

A note from Mr. Calder, containing the following extract from a letter received by him from Bruny Island was read:—"Last week a curious circumstance took place in Simmon's Cove. An immense shoal of small fish of the sprat kind (?) was driven into the cove by larger kinds, such as the Barracouta, King fish, and others, in such numbers that they absolutely suffocated each other, and drifted ashore in such quantities that you will hardly believe me when I tell you there are at least one hundred tons there, and fully two hundred more at the bottom of the water, all dead. They are now quite putrid, and the smell can be perceived fully a mile and a half off. The top of the water is covered with a quantity of oil which has exuded from the dead fish. We are longing for a high tide to carry them away. Many carts and boats have been at

work, taking them for manure, yet they appear no less in quantity. I have been calculating that supposing four of these fish weighed one ounce, the number of the dead will amount to forty-three millions and eight thousand."

Mr. M. Allport observed that a similar migration of these fish to our shores had taken place in 1844, and numbers of them passed far up the Derwent. They represented the Pilchard of the Northern Hemisphere, and were, no doubt, identical with those which had lately visited Port Phillip. Although they were the representatives of the Pilchard it was possible some slight traces of difference existed between them, as was generally the case with all representatives of animals in the two hemispheres.

A very interesting paper on "The local distribution of some Tasmanian Animals" (*See page 9*) was read by M. Allport, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S.

Discussion ensued in which Messrs. Swan, Russell, Young, Buckland, Dobson, Johnston and others took part.

Mr. Abbott read some notes on meteorological returns lately received from the Cape of Good Hope and New Zealand (*see page 13*). Among other points touched on Mr. Abbott directed attention to the marked, and as yet unexplained difference in the direction of the prevailing winds, as shewn by these records.

At Mr. Allport's request, Mr. G. Masters, who has lately been engaged in making a collection in Tasmania, on behalf of the Australian Museum, Sydney, gratified the meeting by exhibiting his collection of Tasmanian insects.

The thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. Masters, also to the authors of the papers, and the donors of presentations, and a special vote was accorded to M. Couraud for his very valuable donation to the museum. The meeting then separated.