

## AUGUST, 1868.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 11th August, His Excellency Colonel T. Gore Browne, President, in the chair.

Mr. C. T. Belstead, who had been previously nominated by the Council, was after a ballot declared to be duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

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

1. Visitors to Museum, 487.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 266.
8. Plants, &c., received at Gardens :—From Mr. J. Harris, Melbourne, 43 plants and 19 scions of fruit trees. From R. Henderson, Sydney, 16 plants.
4. Plants sent from Gardens :—To Mr. T. C. Wren, 55 plants and 76 species bulbs.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorological Returns.*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table and summary for July.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.—Tables for May and June.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story.—Tables for May and June.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.—Table for July.

The presentations were as follow :—

1. From Mr. J. Dennett, Campbell-street, one silver coin ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Dime), United States, America; one twopenny piece, George III.; two copper coins; a small medal, apparently struck in commemoration of the Battle of Albuera; also an Esquimaux dress from Behring's Straits.
2. From Mr. W. Young, Clarence, Plains, a grebe (*Podiceps poliocephalus*.)
3. From Mr. G. W. Linley, Oatlands, a chestnut-faced owl (*Strix castanops*.)
4. From Mr. M. Allport, a young Opossum from the pouch.
5. From Dr. Crowther, two Fish from Lady Elliott's Island.

The Secretary directed the attention of the meeting to the following books lately received as donations to the library.

1. From W. H. Archer, Esq., Registrar-General, by direction of the Government of Victoria, Notes of Progress of Victoria, 1835—1860, (parts 1 and 2), 1861-2-3-4-5-6 and 7, Statistical Register of Victoria and Calendar for 1855 (2 copies) Statistics of Victoria, 1867, Part 1st, Population; Part 2nd, Accumulation. Statistical tables, compiled for Dublin Exhibition, 2 sheets.
2. From Government of New Zealand, Statistics of New Zealand for 1866; Abstract of Principal Results of Census of New Zealand, 1867.
3. From Colonel Sir H. James, R.E., by direction of the Right Hon. the Secretary of State for War; Comparison of Standards of Length of England, France, Belgium, Prussia, Russia, India and Australia.
4. Reports and proceedings of Royal Society, London Linnean Society, Geological Society, Geographical Society, Asiatic Society, &c., &c.
5. From Dr. Milligan, Artisans' Report of Paris Exhibition of 1867. The Technologist Nos. 4 and 5 for 1866; Nos. 6 to 12 for 1867, &c., &c.,

The Secretary read a letter from Mr. Calder, the Surveyor-General, relative to the destruction of the Mutton Birds (*Puffinus brevicaudus*), and their eggs on the islands in Bass' Straits, and suggesting that steps should be taken with a view of protecting them, at least during the breeding season.

Mr. M. Allport fully agreed with the statements in Mr. Calder's paper as to the ultimate effect of the wanton destruction now going on, both of the birds themselves and their eggs, and he hoped that some practical effort would be made for their protection.

Mr. Wright suggested that some controlling power by the agency of the police should be exerted.

Mr. Gould made some observations on the paper referring to a visit made by him to the "rookeries" at Port Davey, pointing out as interesting the habit of a small Petrel occupying to some extent the same burrows as the Mutton Birds, prior to their arrival, from which, however, they are at once expelled by the latter; and while agreeing in the object of the author, stated that some difficulties would arise in the adoption of steps to prevent the destruction of the Mutton Birds from the fact of the subsistence of the islanders in the Straits being dependent to a considerable extent upon the harvest of young birds procured by them. They were not contented, however, with this, but also destroyed the old birds and eggs, and preservation ought therefore to be provided.

The Bishop thought it would be well if the islanders themselves could be induced to take an intelligent interest in the preservation of a bird which was of vital importance to them.

Discussion ensued, in which Colonel Crawford, Mr. Barnard, and others took part. It was suggested that the law now in force to protect native game during the breeding season, might be made applicable to these birds. Finally, it was proposed by Mr. Barnard, seconded by Mr. Justin Browne, and carried, "That the suggestion contained in the paper should be remitted to Government, in order that action, if possible, might be taken in the matter."

Mr. F. Abbott read an interesting paper on "Spectrum Analysis, and its application to Science." The subject was subsequently illustrated by the exhibition of spectra from flames, in which various metals (Sodium, Potassium, Strontium, &c.,) were burned. The lines characteristic of each metal were well shown, and were examined with much interest by the Fellows present.

A vote of thanks to the authors of the papers, and donors of presentations having been accorded, the meeting separated.