

ROYAL SOCIETY.

JUNE, 1868.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, 9th June, J. Davies, Esq., M.H.A., in the chair.

S. Wright, Esq., and J. R. Scott, Esq., M.H.A., who had been previously nominated by the Council, were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected as Fellows of the Society.

The Secretary, Dr. Agnew, laid on the table the usual monthly returns, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum, during May, 452.
2. Ditto to Gardens, ditto, 1,477.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens :—From Messrs. Taylor and Sangster, Melbourne, 43 plants. From T. C. Carey, Esq., 47 papers seeds of plants indigenous to Western Australia. From the Botanic Gardens, Ceylon, 42 papers of seeds.
4. Times of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
5. Books and periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table, &c., for May.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., table for April.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story, table for April.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., table for May.
5. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq., table for April.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From W. A. B. Gellibrand, Esq. Two recent specimens of the Native Tiger. (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*.)
2. From W. Lovett, Esq. A Diamond Bird. *Pardalotus punctatus*, and a Mountain Thrush. (*Oreocincla lunulata*.)
3. From J. W. Graves, Esq. An English Partridge. (*Perdix cinerea*.)
4. From W. H. Price, Esq., Macquarie Plains. A Gannet. (*Sula Australis*.)

[In reference to this presentation Mr. M. Allport remarked it was a most extraordinary circumstance that a bird of this nature should have penetrated so far into the interior as the Macquarie Plains. It was evidently by its plumage a bird in its first year, and was probably easily captured, being unable readily to rise from the level of the ground on which it was found, as is the case with many long winged sea birds.]

5. From J. Forster, Esq. The skull of an Aborigine, picked up at "Brady's Look-out," Arthur's Lakes, the hunting ground of the Norfolk Plains tribe.

[This skull was found on comparison with others in the Museum, to be very similar in conformation to one obtained from the same locality some years back. In some minute particulars it differed from the Aboriginal type of skull from other parts of the colony.]

6. From J. Young, Esq. A crab caught at Kangaroo Point.
7. From Mr. F. Cotton, jun., Swanport. A lizard.
8. From J. Boyd, Esq., two Black Cockatoos, (*Calyptorhynchus zantho-notus*), shot at Port Arthur.

9. From H. Cook, Esq., Fac-Similes of the Warrants for the Execution of Mary Queen of Scots (1587), and of Charles I. (1648); also one of the "Act for establishing the Coronation Oath" (1689), and a Collection of Bulletins of the French army, 1812 and 1815.

The various items in this presentation were carefully examined by the Fellows present. Some of the bulletins, that for instance of the 16th June, 1815, and others, are of great historical interest. The warrants with the signatures attached are also well worthy of notice by the student of English History.

The Secretary then read the communication from Mr. Biggs, referred to at the previous meeting.

This was a detailed description "Of a Method of Microscopic Measurement," by means,—1st of a Camera Lucida of Mr. Bigg's own contrivance; and 2nd, of a movable scale of inches placed at such a distance that the reflected image of the object is projected upon it, and made to correspond with one or more of the divisions, the value of which has been previously ascertained by means of a stage micrometer graduated to, say—1-100 or 1-1000 inch, and applied in the same manner as described for the object.

In the absence of Mr. Biggs it was difficult to illustrate the various details given in the paper, the Society's microscope not being adapted for the particular kind of camera required. It was hoped that on a future occasion Mr. Biggs would be enabled to exhibit his method with his own instrument and appliances.

After reading the above paper, Dr. Agnew exhibited modes of minute measurement by means of English and French micrometers.

Mr. Allport brought forward a photograph of an interesting fossil ripple mark, which has been exposed in the working of a quarry at the commencement of the new Huon road, where it leaves Holbrook Place. The rocks in which it occurs belong to the carboniferous series, and the formation of this particular mark was doubtless due to the same natural causes which now affect mud-banks occasionally covered with water. The mud on which this mark was left by the receding waves must have had time to get quite hard (probably under the influence of a hot sun) before the next deposit of mud upon its surface, leaving a natural division between the two deposits, now plainly visible after the lapse of countless ages.

The usual votes of thanks having been passed, the meeting separated.