MAY, 1868.

The monthly meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, 12th May.

The Secretary informed the meeting that His Excellency the President intended to be present this evening, but was accidentally prevented by the arrival of H.M.S. Virago, which necessitated his presence at Government House.

The following returns were laid on the table :—

1. Visitors to Museum during April, 466.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 1,578.
3. Plants received at Gardens :—From Mr. R. Henderson, Sydney, 21 plants. From Mr. C. F. Creswell, 64 papers seeds received per overland mail.
4. Plants sent from Gardens :—To A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, 12 tree ferns *(Dicksonia antarctica)*. To Messrs. Taylor and Sangster, Melbourne, 1 case containing 40 plants.
5. Leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants at Botanic Gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for April.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., table for March.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story, table for March.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., table for April.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—.

1. From J. W. Graves, Esq. An English fox *(Canis vulpes)*, prepared and mounted; two specimens of the Banded Grass Finch *(Poëphila cincta.)*
2. From M. Allport, Esq. Eggs and young of Dog-fish.

[These were the eggs of the common spined Dog-fish of the Derwent, taken from a specimen 4 feet long caught by Mr. M. Allport off the Iron Pot Lighthouse. When fresh taken these would have been admirable objects for microscopic investigation, as the umbilical cord, by which the young fish is attached to the yolk of the egg, is of such a length that it could easily have been placed across the field of the instrument while the fish and egg remained in the water; the circulation through the large vessels would thus have been easily observed. As an instance of the vitality of immature forms of many creatures, these eggs were remarkable, the small fish attached to one of them exhibiting lively motion after being removed from the parent fish, and remaining on the deck of the vessel for nine hours. The smaller blood vessels, spread over the surface of the yolk like rivers on a map, were very clearly shown on these specimens when fresh.]

3. From Salmon Commissioners. A young Salmon Trout *(Salmo trutta)*, found dead in the breeding pond at the River Plenty.
4. From His Excellency Colonel T. Gore Browne. A specimen of the artificial stone of which the new Wesleyan Church at Launceston is built.
5. From Mr. Allison, Oatlands, two Black Magpies. *(Strepera fuliginosa.)*
6. From Mr. G. Joseph, Single Hill, a Coot. *(Fulica Australis.)*
7. From Mr. T. Wise, skull of Seal.
8. From J. Beamont, Esq., specimens of printed and written official documents of the colony, dated 1817, &c.
9. From G. Gellibrand, Esq., sample of Coal from Grey River, New Zealand.

The Secretary read a paper by Mr. E. D. Harrop, of Launceston, "on Desmidiaceæ, with a list of species found in Tasmania." Accompanying it were numerous and very well executed drawings (by the

writer) of these minute forms of vegetable life. The paper was listened to with greatest interest, and will appear in the transactions of the society.

In reference to the very able paper of Mr. Harrop, Mr. Allport stated that one very strong argument against the Desmidieæ belonging to the animal kingdom—in which they have by some naturalists been included—was the entire absence of anything like a digestive cavity. Mr. Allport also observed that many, and probably quite new varieties of the Desmidieæ were to be found in the salt swamps of the colony.

Mr. Abbott suggested that Mr. Harrop's paper should be forwarded to the Royal Microscopical Society of London, who he thought would print it in their journal, and at the same time illustrate it by engravings from the drawings. This society could then procure a copy by applying for it.

The Secretary brought forward a communication from Mr. A. Biggs, of Bothwell, "on a method of making microscopic measurements," for which Mr. Biggs claims some advantages over those in general use. As, however, the hour fixed upon for the microscopical soiree was now approaching it was determined that the reading of the paper should be postponed till the next meeting, when it might obtain a more lengthened consideration.

The thanks of the meeting were given to the donors of presentations, and a special vote was accorded to Mr. Harrop for his valuable contribution.

The meeting then terminated, and the Fellows proceeded to the microscopical exhibition in the large room of the museum.

Here a number of microscopes, each supplied with a variety of objects, were collected. Mr. F. Abbott, by means of a powerful standard instrument, brought under notice many exquisite forms of the first order of diatomaceæ, also beautiful specimens of marine plants parasitic upon algæ and zoophytes, together with many other objects of great interest. Mr. Abbott also contributed a large number of enlarged photographs of microscopic objects beautifully executed by Dr. Maddox. Another instrument shown by Mr. Abbott was a dissecting microscope on the plan adopted by the celebrated Darwin, and fitted with a large doublet designed by him and used in all his experiments. Under this power was exhibited a series of metallic objects.

With another instrument of binocular construction Mr. Abbott, junior, shewed a choice series of botanical sections, chiefly colonial.

Mr. Morton Allport contributed one of the most beautiful objects of the evening in the volvox globator, of which the incessant rotatory motion, and delicate traceries were well displayed, and excited general attention.

Mr. W. Stone exhibited rotifers and animalcules from rain and pond water, some of which were magnified to 480 diameters.

Numerous crystals of salts under the varied and beautiful changes produced by polarised light were exhibited by Mr. W. Knight, junr.; and Mr. Napier also shewed many crystals under similar circumstances, together with some forms of minute animal life, such as polyzoa, &c.

Mr. T. Westbrook provided a binocular microscope, and shewed a variety of selected objects.

Mr. Legrand exhibited for the society specimens of Foraminiferæ collected by himself at Sandy Bay—also spores of ferns, which were examined with great interest by most of the visitors present.

The society also furnished an interesting collection of the hair and fur of indigenous animals, also a number of objects illustrative of insect structure, with microscopic photographs, &c.

The meeting broke up about 10 o'clock, when the numerous visitors departed highly gratified with the exhibition, which had been organised expressly on their behalf.