

## OCTOBER, 1869.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 12th October, C. Gould, Esq., F.G.S., in the chair.

The hon. Secretary, Dr. Agnew, submitted the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Visitors to the Museum, 880.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 2,355.
3. Plants and seeds sent from, and received at Gardens.
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 and summary for September.
2. Swansea, from Dr. Story, table for August.
3. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., ditto for September.
4. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., ditto, ditto.
5. Sydney, from G. R. Smalley, Esq., Government Astronomer, table for June.
6. Melbourne, from R. J. Ellery, Esq., table, &c., for August.
7. Perth, Western Australia, from W. H. Knight, Esq., table for August.

The following presentations to the Museum were brought under the notice of the meeting :—

1. From Captain Roberts, a Snake and three Centipedes.
2. From F. B. Wilkinson, Esq., a Mountain Duck (*Casarca tadornoides*).
3. From Mr. W. Exton, Oatlands, a Chestnut-faced Owl (*Strix castanops*).
4. From Mr. R. Propsting, a Harrier (*Circus assimilis*). [This bird is known as the "Swamp Hawk" of the colony.]
5. From A. H. Maning, Esq., a Sun Dial, made and used by Spanish shepherds.
6. From Mr. H. Turner, an Irish Penny, and a Sydney Token.
7. From Miss Castray, Leaves of Silver Leaf Tree from Table Mountain, Cape of Good Hope; a Damara Lady's Necklace, from South Africa.
8. From Mrs. J. R. Buckland,—A Bullet from a double-barrelled gun, found loaded, on the 30th May, 1859, by the side of two skeletons belonging to the retreating party of Sir John Franklin's expedition, in a boat on the west coast of King William's Island, lat. 69deg. 8min., N., long. 99deg. 24min., W. [Vide "Fate of Franklin and His Discoveries," by Captain McClintock, page 294.] A portion of a Boat's Ensign, belonging to the same expedition, left at the Northern Cairn, Cape Felix, May, 1847, and discovered May, 1859, by Lieut. Hobson, of Lady Franklin's screw yacht Fox. A portion of the Riband of the Order of the Redeemer, of Greece, worn by the late Sir John Franklin. An Almond from the Convent Garden on Mount Sinai.
9. From Mr. W. Knight, jun.,—A collection of Geological Specimens brought by Mr. Glover from the western coast of the Island.

The Secretary brought under notice a model of a Reel invented by Sergeant Eccleston, R.A., Instructor of Artillery, to be used for the purpose of winding up the line in deep sea fishing. A letter descriptive of the manner of using it, and setting forth its advantages, was read.

Mr. Stephens read some "Notes on the occurrence of gold at Port Cygnet."

Mr. Gould was much interested in the information contained in Mr. Stephens' paper, as he had not had an opportunity of minutely examining the country about Port Cygnet. The discovery of fossils in the quarry alluded to, would be of the greatest importance, and he hoped, if any were discovered, they would be preserved for scientific examination. As to the specimens on the table, said to have been obtained from the vicinity of Port Davey, although he had visited that part of the country, several of them were new to him. He would instance more particularly the serpentine, which was much more like that on the North of the Island than any he had seen to the westward. Further information, however, was much required, as the specimens lost a great deal of their interest by not having labels affixed; and geological specimens generally were of very little value if not accompanied by a notice, defining exactly the localities in which they were found.

Mr. J. W. Graves mentioned that gold in small quantities was discovered at Port Cygnet in 1852.

Mr. Stephens was anxious to induce Fellows to send specimens of natural history to the Museum, which, in many respects, was still very deficient. He would refer to one subject alone, that of our land shells. Of these, we had no proper collection, and if any information in reference to them was required, it would have to be sought for in the private museum of a naturalist (Dr. Cox), in Sydney—a circumstance which was scarcely creditable to us.

Mr. Justin Browne observed that at a former meeting he had suggested that lists of such objects as we wanted might be exhibited at all the Post Offices in the interior, and he thought that if our wants were thus made generally known, many people in the country would send contributions.

The Secretary informed the meeting that lists of desiderata for the Museum had been printed and forwarded to all the Fellows, and to many others. Scarce any response was, however, made to the appeal, except by Mr. W. Gellibrand, and also by Mrs. C. Meredith, who had contributed many valuable preparations of our sea-weeds and other objects.

Mr. Graves mentioned he had lately received from Mr. Groombridge, of North West Bay, a black Wallaby. He had frequently seen the Albino variety, but had never seen or heard of a black one. He was inclined to believe it might be found to be a new species. It was now alive at his house for inspection.

Mr. Castray (A. C. G.), in referring to presentation No. 7, observed if it was thought advisable by the Society to make exchanges of plants and seeds with the Cape, Mauritius, or Madagascar, that he would be happy to be the means of effecting such exchange, as he had correspondents in those places. Mr. Castray's offer was at once accepted.

Mr. Graves enquired if there were any berry-bearing wild plants at any of the places named, as such, if suitable to this climate, would be of great value both for our indigenous and acclimatised animals?

Mr. Castray thought there were some at the Cape which might be introduced with advantage.

A vote of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Stephens for his paper, and to the donors of presentations, the meeting terminated.