

APRIL, 1869.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 13th April, T. Giblin, Esq., in the chair.

The following returns for the past month were laid on the table:—

1. Visitors to Museum, 877.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 2,724.
3. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Gardens.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., Table and Summary for March.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., Tables for February and March.
3. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., Table for March.
4. Brisbane, Queensland, from E. McDonnell, Esq., Meteorological Summary for February.
5. Lighthouses, &c., from the Hobart Town Marine Board, Monthly Tables for the half-year ended 31st December, 1868.

The presentations to the Museum and Library were as follows:—

1. From W. Johnstone, Esq., Trinity Hill, a Boomerang and Waddy from Queensland, a Spear from New Hebrides.
2. From H. M. Hull, Esq., a Key-hole Limpet, and Chiton, from Sandy Bay; a Magpie Perch.
3. From Mr. F. Holmes, portion of Skin of Whale, tanned.
4. From Mr. G. F. Gooch, a small Silver Coin.
5. From Mr. Mitchell, Sandy Bay, a Basket and Necklace made by Female Aborigines of Tasmania.
6. From Dr. Cox, Sydney, 67 specimens of Shells.
7. From Mr. Hannaford, an Ostracion and 2 seeds of the *Trappa bicornis*, from China.
8. From W. A. B. Gellibrand, Esq., a Female Specimen of the Native Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*).
9. From J. Maclanachan, Esq., a Hen Golden Pheasant.
10. From J. Swan, Esq., Skeletons of Forester and Brush Kangaroo, and 2 Bandicoots.
11. From Mrs. Room, Launceston, an Indian Silver Coin ($\frac{1}{2}$ rupee)
12. From Dr. W. Sonder, Hamburg, Flora Capensis, by Drs. Harvey and Sonder, 3 vols. bound cloth.
13. Tasmanian Industries, by J. E. Calder, Esq. (pamphlet), 2 copies, presented by Her Majesty's Government.
14. Statistics of New Zealand, 1867, presented by New Zealand Government.
15. From E. D. Harrop, Esq., Launceston, Four Mounted Specimens of Fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*).
16. From Mrs. C. Meredith, Specimen of the Australian Coot (*Fulica Australis*).
17. From Mr. F. A. Moore, Mangalore Farm, Bridgewater, a Copy of *The Derwent Star and Van Diemen's Land Intelligencer*, April 3rd, 1810, containing an account of the death of Governor Collins. Printed Government Orders, January 14th, February 5th, March 2nd, April 5th, 6th, and 15th, 1814. A Promissory Note, value 3d., signed W. Robinson, 1824. [These records of the early days of the Colony excited much attention among the members present.]

The Secretary, Dr. Agnew, read a letter from Baron F. Von Mueller,

intimating that a copy of a work entitled "Flora Capensis," by Drs. W. H. Harvey and O. W. Sonder, had been presented to the Society by the latter gentleman. (See presentation No. 12.) Dr. Sonder also took the opportunity of conveying his thanks for his election as a corresponding member of the Society.

Mr. M. Allport informed the meeting that he had this season successfully stripped and fecundated the ova from the indigenous grayling (*Prototroctes muræna*). The male and female fish were taken with the rod at the Falls, New Norfolk, during the last week in March. The ova were brought to town and deposited in a slate tray with a gentle stream of water running through it. The embryos first showed in 3 days and hatched out in 8 to 12 days. Unfortunately the delicate little fish scarcely survived the extrusion from the egg more than a few minutes, and were all lost, probably from want of greater depth, or other physical condition of the water, of which we are at present ignorant. The main interest attaching to the experiment is, that it upsets the theory long held by many fishermen that these fish spawn in salt water.

The Secretary read a paper by Mr. E. D. Harrop, of the Bank of Van Diemen's Land, Launceston, on the fluke (*Fasciola hepatica*). The subject was illustrated by several microscopical preparations (mounted by the author) of the Ova, Ovaries, &c., of the animal, which were examined with much interest by the Fellows present.

Discussion followed, and, after a well-merited compliment to Mr. Harrop, for the care and neatness displayed in the mounted specimens of fluke presented to the Society, Mr. M. Allport observed that Mr. Harrop regrets that he has been unable to prepare any specimens of the Cercariæ of *Fasciola hepatica*, thereby implying that he has found such Cercariæ; has he done so? and if so, where? Mr. Allport believed that reliable information as to the Cercariæ being found elsewhere than in sheep, would supply a link hitherto missing in the natural history of this fluke. Cobbold expressly states that the life of the liver fluke subsequent to the hatching of the ciliated embryo, and until its re-appearance in the liver of the sheep, is at present unknown, but, that analogy (based on the well-known history of other allied creatures) would lead to the conclusion that the embryo takes up its residence in a molluscan host, and forms sporocysts, the progeny from which ultimately get to the interior of the sheep. Mr. Allport admitted that the probabilities are strong that some other hosts than mammalia were concerned in the development of the liver fluke, but stating that to the best of his belief proof was yet wanting.

Mr. Walter Gellibrand mentioned an instance in which he had known sound ground on which a few fluky sheep were pieced for a few days, to transmit the disease to sound sheep in three weeks, in this case it seems hard to believe that any intermediate host was concerned in the development of the perfect fluke.

A vote of thanks to Mr. Harrop, and to the donors of presentations, closed the proceedings.