

AUGUST, 1869.

The usual evening meeting of Fellows was held on Tuesday, 10th August, J. Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

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

1. Visitors to Museum, 707.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1251.
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 and Library.

*Meteorological Returns.*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for July.
2. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., table for July.
3. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., table for July.
4. Melbourne, from R. J. Ellery, Esq., table for June.
5. Sydney, from G. R. Smalley, Esq., table for May.
6. New Zealand, from Dr. Hector, table for May.
7. Perth, Western Australia, from W. H. Knight, Esq., table for June.

The presentations were as follows:—

1. From F. Aubin, Esq., a Sun Fish (*Orthogoriscus sp.*), washed on shore at Spring Bay.
2. From Mr. W. J. Thomas, a large specimen of "Native Bread" (*Mylitta Australis*) ploughed up at Bellerive. [This specimen weighed 21lb. 10oz.]
3. From Mr. J. Rossitor, specimens of the Maori Hen of New Zealand. An English Partridge. Three Bones of Foot of Moa (*Dinornis sp.*)
4. From Mr. H. Hull, three Small Fish from Derwent.
5. From H. Bilton, Esq., Glenorchy, double Head of Calf. [This specimen has two perfect mouths, and four eyes, but only one pair of ears. The Calf from which it was taken lived three days, and the cow which produced it had one on a former occasion with three legs.]
6. From Dr. Cox, of Sydney, a large number of Shells.
7. From Mr. J. Jones, a small Turtle from Lady Elliott's Island.
8. From J. Barnard, Esq., a package of Seed of Sugar-beet for distribution.
9. From the Institution of Engineers in England, a complete Set of the Transactions of the Institution, in eleven volumes.
10. Specimens of new species of Helix (*Helix Allporti. Cox.*)
11. From Mr. Roblin, a Black Cockatoo (*Calyptorhynchus xanthonotus*).
12. From Mr. Gates, Jerusalem, ditto.
13. From Miss S. A. Manley, four specimens of *Chamostrea*, from Carlton Beach.
14. From Miss S. P. Edwards, eleven copper Coins and Tokens.
15. From J. A. Youl, Seventh Annual Report of Inspectors of Salmon Fisheries, England and Wales.
16. From Rev. R. E. Dear, specimens of laminated quartz and iron ore, a number of flint implements of the Aborigines, collected by Mr. Rollings, of Forcett.
17. From J. Barnard, Esq., specimens Cinnabar Ore, from the Cudgegong, New South Wales.

The Secretary announced that it had been decided by the Council to hold the annual microscopical meeting on Tuesday, the 16th November, when it was hoped that every Fellow possessing an instrument would take part in the exhibition; and, in the meantime, endeavour to procure

new and suitable objects, so as to render the meeting as attractive as possible.

Mr. Barnard read some notes on the cultivation of the Sugar Beet, supplementary to a former communication on the same subject, and took the opportunity of presenting a package of the seed for distribution ; also, a small tract on " The Sugar Beet, its importance, cultivation, and management," by Jules Joubert, Secretary to the Agricultural Society of New South Wales.

Mr. Davies suggested that a portion of the seed should be sent to Dr. Coverdale, who he believed was now giving the growth of Beet a fair trial on the farm of the Queen's Orphan Asylum. As Dr. Coverdale was now making use of seed sent from Europe by Mr. John Walker, he would thus be enabled to institute a comparison between the seeds.

Mr. Morton Allport called the attention of the Fellows to an interesting scientific fact, connected with the Salmon experiment, viz., that the few pairs of Salmon trout (*Salmo trutta*) which were retained in a freshwater pond, purposely prepared for them, had deposited spawn in which the embryo fish were now distinctly visible. The parent fish were hatched in May, 1866, and are therefore nearly four years old, their weights varying from three-quarters of a pound to one pound and a half.

Mr. Stephens, in bringing under the notice of the Fellows an apparatus for applying sulphur to plants, by means of a common pair of bellows, in a thorough and economical manner, observed that the use of sulphur was now largely adopted in Madeira, where it had quite cured the disease in the vine (*Oidium*) which had been so destructive of late years. Sulphur thus applied would in fact destroy all vegetable blight, which was of a fungoid character (as was the case with the *Oidium*), and would no doubt be efficacious against the fire blight, which for some years had been so prevalent among the apple trees. [The instrument, which is very simple in construction, and could readily be made by any tin-smith, will be exhibited for some time in the Museum.]

Mr. F. Abbott read a paper on Nobert's test lines, Moller's Diatom Type Slide, and recent improvements in the construction of Microscopes ; which was listened to with much attention. Mr. Abbott intimated that he intended exhibiting some new Micrometers, and other novel objects of interest on the evening of the Microscopical meeting.

Mr. Davies thought the thanks of the Society were specially due to Mr. Barnard, for the manner in which he had, on more than one occasion, brought the subject of Sugar Beet cultivation under notice, and begged to move accordingly.

Mr. Buckland seconded the motion, which was carried, and the usual vote of thanks having been given to Mr. Abbott, for his interesting paper, and to the donors of presentations, the meeting broke up.