

ROYAL SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER, 1869.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 14th September, James Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

Mr. M. Allport, in the absence of the Hon. Secretary, laid on the table the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Visitors to the Museum, 1019.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1572.
3. Plants sent from Gardens.
4. Ditto received at ditto.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants at Gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum and Library.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table and summary for August.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq., table for August.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story, table for June and July.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., table for August.
5. Brisbane, Queensland, from E. McDonnell, Esq., table for July, and summary of observations for 1868.
6. Melbourne, from R. J. Ellery, Esq., table for July.
7. Perth, Western Australia, from W. H. Knight, Esq., do do.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. From Mr. Oscar Hedberg, a collection of shells from the East Coast of Tasmania. [In calling attention to this presentation, Mr. Allport remarked that many of the specimens were very excellent of their kind, and although not new to the Museum, were valuable for the purpose of exchange.]
2. From Mr. Chaplin, a mineralogical specimen from Black Brush.
3. From Mr. H. McCra, specimens of Lava and calcareous Tufa, also a Spirifer, from Abyssinia, near Bothwell. A stone implement of the Aborigines.
4. From Mr. A. H. Swift, Little Taylor's Bay, two specimens of Iron Ore (*Hematite*) from Point Ventinat.
5. From G. Dinham, two fossil Shark's Teeth from the Lias, near Bath, England.
6. From Mr. C. A. Glover, 15 mineralogical specimens from West Coast of Tasmania. Also specimens of a fibrous plant, supposed by the donor to be a new species, from the same locality.
7. From Mr. G. P. Clifford, Dunedin, two Boulders (*Septaria*) from Moeraki Beach, New Zealand. [These boulders are found in large numbers on the beach referred to, and not elsewhere in New Zealand. They vary in size from that of a cricket ball up to seven or eight feet in diameter, are of calcareous composition, and are remarkable for the regularity of their form, which is almost perfectly spherical. When burned they make an excellent cement.*]

* One of them has since been divided, and found to be hollow in the centre, the cavity being lined with crystals of Carbonate of Lime.

8. From H. Gichard, H.I.M. ship La Somme One bronze Coin, value 5 cents, one silver ditto, 50 cents.
9. From C. Heron of the same ship. Two copper Coins, Colony of Cayenne, Louis 16th, 1789, and Republic of Berne, 1796.
10. From Mr. J. Walch. A Shilling of Queen Elizabeth; a Farthing of George 2nd, 1741; a copper Coin of French Republic (L'An 5); ditto of one of the Roman Emperors, &c.
11. From Mr. F. E. Bomford. Specimens of Fluke (*Distoma sp.*) from liver of a Shark.
12. From Mr. S. H. Wintle. A Pamphlet on the Progress of Botanical Discovery in Australia. By W. Woolls, F.L.S.
13. From Mr. Kelly. A Brass Basin, probably of Indian manufacture.
14. From Mr. A. McLaren. Specimens of Barnacles from piles of Wharf.
15. From the Secretary of War, United States. Report for 1866; and Report on Epidemic Cholera, 1867. Catalogue of Surgical Section. U.S. Army, Medical Museum, 1866.
16. From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington. Report for 1865.
17. From the Boston Society of Natural History. Proceedings, volume 7, 10, and Nos. 1 to 6 of volume 11. Memoirs of ditto, volume 1, parts 1 and 2.
18. From Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts. Proceedings, volume 4, parts 1 and 2 of volume 5, and Naturalists' Directory, No. 1.
19. From American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia. Proceedings volume 10, No. 76.
20. From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Proceedings, volume 6.

The special attention of the meeting was called to the very liberal donation of books, some of them of a very expensive character, lately received from the Government and various scientific institutions of the United States. The books had been sent in return for publications of the Society forwarded to the donors, a system of exchange having been initiated some time since through the Smithsonian Institution at Washington.

Mr. M. Allport read a paper on "Net Fishing in the River Derwent," in reference to which several of the Fellows present fully bore out that gentleman's statements as to the permanent damage entailed on the fisheries by the use of the small meshed seine nets.

Special votes of thanks were accorded to the American Government, the Smithsonian, and other institutions, for the donations of books. Also to Mr. Allport for his very able paper. The proceedings closed with the ordinary vote of thanks to the donors of presentations.