

JULY, 1864.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held at the Museum, on Tuesday, the 12th July, the Ven. Archdeacon Davies, V.P., in the chair.

Among the Fellows present were :—Messrs. C. Gould, T. Stephens, M. Allport, J. Allport, F. Abbott, sen., F. Abbott, jun., H. S. Wintle, G. J. Crouch, J. Johnston, J. Facey, G. P. Adams, A. T. Seal, H. Bilton, Lieutenant-Colonel Crawford, Dr. Hall, Dr. Agnew, Hon. Sec., &c.

The following gentlemen (having been previously nominated by the Council) were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected Fellows of the Society :—Lieutenant Seddon, R.E., Messrs. Russell Young, H. L. Roberts, and J. Pillinger.

The usual Monthly Returns were laid on the table, viz. :—

- (1.) Visitors to the museum during June, 480.
- (2.) Ditto to gardens, ditto, 509.
- (3.) Plants and seeds supplied from gardens :—To Archdeacon Davies, 36 papers colonial seeds ; to Messrs. Handyside & M'Millan, Melbourne, 106 plants and one bundle of cuttings ; to Dr. Mueller, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 14 papers of coniferous seeds.
- (4.) Plants received :—From Messrs. Handyside and M'Millan, Melbourne, 6 bulbs, 7 plants, and 1 graft.
- (5.) Trench supplied :—Mr. Morrison, 18 ; Mr. A. Moses, 6 ; total, 24.
- (6.) Books and periodicals received.

Meteorological Returns :—

- (1.) Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
 - (a.) Table for June.
 - (b.) Summary and Analysis of Observations for ditto.
- (2.) Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
 - (a.) Tables for May and June.
 - (b.) Reading of Government Schooner's Barometer, for ditto ditto.
- (3.) Swansea, from Dr. Story.
 - (a.) Tables for April and May.

The SECRETARY read the usual monthly analysis of the Meteorological Observations, together with a Health Report for June by E. S. Hall, Esq.

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

1. From Mr. Thomas Buxton, Sen., of Little Swanport, 7 coins, viz. :—1 shilling of Queen Elizabeth ; 1 Spanish quarter dollar of 1721, 1 Roman coin found in the River Dove, near Tutbury Castle, England ; 1 India copper coin ; 1 Chinese ditto ; 1 farthing of Charles 1st. ; 1 ditto of William 3rd.
2. From Mr. R. Rothwell, 4 coins, 1 American cent ; 1 Chilian copper coin ; 1 twenty cash, (East India Company) 1803 ; 1 Portuguese coin.
3. From Miss Nicholas, 1 Chinese coin, and a medal struck in memory of the late Duke of York.
4. Specimen of Vicuna wool, presented by C. Ledger, Esq., per Justin Browne, Esq.
5. From Mr. H. S. Wintle, sample of bituminous coal from Brown's River.
6. From G. Selwyn, Esq., Government Geologist, Melbourne, 14 quarter sheet maps of geological survey of Victoria, and 8 sheets of geological sketch map of Victoria.
7. From His Excellency, Colonel T. Gore Browne, a pamphlet on the Malta and Alexandra Telegraph.
8. From the Royal Geographical Society, London, transactions of the society, Vol. 32, 1862, and proceedings of ditto, Vol. 8, No. 1.
9. From the Royal Institution of Great Britain, proceedings of the institution, Vol. 4, part 1, No. 37, and part 2, No. 38, 1863. Report for 1862. List of officers for 1863. Notices of proceedings part 12.
10. From Lieut.-Colonel Crawford, cones and seeds of cedar of Lebanon.

The SECRETARY informed the meeting that the following recent specimens of Tasmanian animals had been received from W. Gellibrand, Esq., and were in course of preparation for the Museum :—2 Native Tigers (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*) ; 2 Native Devils (*Sarcophilus ursinus*) ; and a Wombat (*Phascolomys wombat*.)

Mr. STEPHENS exhibited a small branch of an apple tree studded with large patches of a "blight," which he feared was a new variety. On examina-

tion with a glass the patches were found to consist of masses of insects' eggs of extreme minuteness. As they differ from any which he had ever previously examined, Mr. Stephens promised carefully to watch their development, and report upon the subject on a future occasion.

Mr. M. ALLPORT begged to report that the young salmon and trout were going on in a very satisfactory manner. Of the former, almost all had lost the umbilical sac; and of the latter, all had lost it. It was calculated that the young trout now number about 250, which was even better than had been anticipated. Mr. Allport then read a very interesting paper on the natural enemies which the salmon would have to contend with in our seas and rivers. Specimens from the Museum of many of these predaceous animals were exhibited on the table, amongst them were the platypus, beaver rat, seal, jaws of porpoise and black-fish, black swan, ducks, cormorants, &c.

On the conclusion of the paper, Mr. GOULD observed that he feared the black-fish, referred to by Mr. Allport, as likely to prove chiefly a nocturnal destroyer of the salmon, would be found to be also a very formidable enemy during the day. It was satisfactory, however, to know that this would only be the case in some of the northern and western rivers, where alone the black-fish are found, and could not affect our southern streams, which were, perhaps, in other respects also, the best adapted for the salmon.

Mr. WINTLE mentioned it had been suggested to him that the Murray Cod might be introduced into our rivers with advantage.

Mr. M. ALLPORT said this had been thought of many years ago. The fact was, however, the cod was a most voracious fish, and it would certainly be unwise at the present juncture to introduce such an insatiable enemy among our young trout and salmon. He thought it probable too that our waters were too cold for the Murray fish. He had doubts, however, of the propriety of attempting their introduction at all, as in reference to their value for the table he had heard very conflicting and contradictory statements.

Mr. STEPHENS stated the Murray cod was not a fine fish. It was well enough for inland districts when no other could be obtained, but could only be called good in comparison with very bad fish. It was not nearly so good as our black fish, and by its introduction therefore we would only lose, through its great voracity, some of our good fish without gaining any corresponding advantage.

Mr. WINTLE read some notes on the Hobart Town sandstone. In reference to a fossil one found some years ago in the sandstone quarry in the Domain, and which has been pronounced by Professor Owen to be the humerus of a Labyrinthodont reptile. Mr. Wintle having alluded to the possibility of the locality not having been carefully searched for other specimens, Mr. M. Allport begged to assure him that the quarry had, immediately on the discovery of the bone, been most thoroughly and repeatedly explored, both by himself and Dr. Milligan, but without result. They had fully recognised the value of the specimen, and had spared neither time nor trouble in the search.

Conversation ensued, in which Mr. Gould and Mr. Stephens, in discussion with Mr. Wintle, expressed doubts of the correctness of the conclusions he had arrived at as to the age, &c., of the sandstone. A vote of thanks having then been recorded for the papers and presentations, the meeting, after a more than usually prolonged sitting, broke up.

