

ROYAL SOCIETY.

SEPTEMBER, 1864.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held at the Museum on Tuesday, the 13th September. F. Abbott, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen (having been previously nominated by the Council) were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected as corresponding members of the Society :—Dr. Bennett, of Sydney, and Gerald Krefft, Esq., Curator of Museum, Sydney.

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

1. Visitors to Museum during August, 624.
2. Ditto to Gardens, ditto, 1,319.
3. Plants, &c., supplied from Gardens,—

To the Salmon Commissioners, for planting round the ponds at the River Plenty, 270 plants, and 2,600 common thorn ditto.

To J. J. Stutzer, Esq., Melbourne, 5,000 white mulberry plants.

To Messrs. Handyside and McMillan, Melbourne, one bundle conifer cuttings, and 24 papers of Tasmanian seeds.

4. Plants received,—

From Messrs. Handyside and McMillan, Melbourne, 101 plants, 5 varieties of cuttings, scions of two varieties of plum, and 28 papers of seeds.

From His Excellency Colonel T. Gore Browne, 5 olives from South Australia.

From Askin Morrison, Esq., a collection of New Zealand plants.

From Dr. Mueller, Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 338 papers of seeds, about 150 of which are new to the Society's Gardens.

From Mr. C. Diehl, Dunedin, 36 plants.

5. Periodicals received (the usual).

Meteorological Returns,—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.

(a) Table for August.

(b) Summary and Analysis of Observations for ditto.

2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.

(a) Table for July.

(b) Reading of government schooner's barometer for ditto.

3. Swansea, from Dr. Storey.

(a) Table for July.

The SECRETARY read an analysis of the Hobart Town Meteorological Table, with a Health Report for the month, by E. S. Hall, Esq.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. A bronze cap ornament, picked up on the field of Waterloo shortly after the engagement. From Miss Nicholas.

2. A press copy of a copy of one of the early manuscript newspapers of Port Philip. From Mr. A. B. Willis.

3. Jade ornament and a Spanish coin. From Miss Nicholas.

4. Specimen of native copper, from Adelaide, and 2 Cochin China coins. From Miss Edgar.

5. A pearl, from an oyster, from New Town Bay. From Mr. Sievwright.

6. Journals of House of Assembly, vol. x. From H. M. Hull, Esq.

7. Sparrow-hawk (*Accipiter torquatus*). From Mr. M. Allport.

8. Specimen of wood, with a letter. From Isaac Sherwin, Esq., M.H.A.

The wood was carefully examined by the Fellows present, and was very much admired. In grain and general appearance it much resembles cedar, and would evidently be of great value if readily procurable. From Mr. Sherwin's letter it appears to have been obtained from a log which had been floated down one of the northern rivers, and it is supposed the district whence it came must be about fifteen or twenty miles from Deloraine.

The SECRETARY, at the request of Mr. M. Allport, who was unable to be present, mentioned that the young salmon were going on as well as possible. Many of them were now about three inches in length, and exhibited all the characteristic markings of parr.

Mr. Allport wished to have it reported that on his visit yesterday to the Plenty he had, for the first time, seen the *Bernicla jubata*, or Maned Goose, a bird so very rare in Tasmania that Mr. Gould states "it seldom, if ever, visits

Van Diemen's Land." It is beautifully portrayed in Plate 3, Vol. VII., of the "Birds of Australia."

The SECRETARY observed, although as a community we might perhaps effect more than we do, it was well to be aware of what it would be useless to attempt. Knowing that the indigo plant was indigenous in the colony, and grew abundantly in various localities, he had thought it possible a manufacture for the production of the dye might be established, and had written to a friend (Mr. Cockburn) in Calcutta for information on the subject. Mr. Cockburn had sent him a pamphlet containing full information on every point, including expenses, from the growth of the plant to the completion of the manufacture. On making calculations, however, and allowing for the enormous difference in the value of labor between this colony and India, he (Dr. Agnew) found that the dye could only be made at a price so very far beyond its market value, as at once to set at rest the question of its production in Tasmania.

Conversation on various subjects ensued, and the meeting, after passing the usual vote of thanks to the donors of presentations, broke up about 9 o'clock.

