

ROYAL SOCIETY.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society (being the first of the session of 1865) was held at the Museum, Macquarie-street, on Tuesday, the 14th March, J. Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, having been previously nominated by the Council, were duly elected Fellows of the Society—Messrs. A. G. Webster and W. J. Bellette.

The SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) laid on the table the following returns :—

1. Visitors to Museum during February, 541.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 2,203.
3. Seeds received at Gardens.
4. Plants sent from Gardens—To A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, two large Tree Ferns.
5. Books and Periodicals received during January and February.

Metecorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
 - (a) Monthly Tables for November and December, 1864 ; January and February, 1865.
 - (b) Summary and Analysis of Observations for February.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
 - (a) Monthly Tables for November and December, 1864 ; January and February, 1865.
 - (b) Reading of Schooner's Barometer for ditto.
 - (c) Summary of Observations taken during 1864.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story.
 - (a) Tables for November and December, 1864 ; January and February, 1865.
4. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq.
 - (a) Tables for November and December, 1864 ; January and February, 1865.

A letter from A. J. Ogilvy, Esq., was read, enclosing a table showing the rainfall in the district of Richmond for the years 1863 and 1864. In 1863 December was the month in which most rain fell. The total amount was 24·2 inches. In 1864 July was the wettest month, showing a fall of 5·55 inches, and December was next, with a fall of 4·85 inches. Total for the year, 26·10 inches.

The SECRETARY also read the usual analysis of the Hobart Town observations, together with the Health Report for the month, by E. Swarbrick Hall, Esq.

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

1. From Mr. O. H. Hedberg. An exploded whaling bomb lance, shewing its destructive action. (These bombs are fired from a short and very heavy musket, and strike with accuracy and effect.) Also two harpoons, one broken, and the other twisted in a remarkable manner, in an encounter with a whale.
2. From G. H. Anderson, Bridgewater. Three limestone fossils.
3. From R. P. Adams, Esq. A specimen of slate, from the River Mersey, with a letter.
4. From the Marine Board, Hobart Town. Specimens of *Teredo navalis*, and wood bored by the same.
5. From Mr. E. Lipscombe. Twenty coins and tokens.
6. From H. D. Addison, Esq. Three rupees, 2 Belgian cents, 1 do 2 cents, 1 Helvetian coin, and 1 silver coin (20 cents) of Republic of France, 1850.
7. From—Owen, Esq., per Morton Allport, Esq. A fine collection of Silurian fossils, from England.
8. From Mr. Barlow, Swansea. Seeds of grape (a cross between the Black Hamburg and the Chasselas Musk) from the garden of Mr. Thos. Rivers, Sawbridgeworth, England.
9. From A. Nicholas, Esq. Two shells of the *Nautilus Pompilius*, and two of the Pearl Oyster.
10. From Mr. S. Clifford. Photographic view of Museum building:

11. From Mr. W. J. Bellette. Specimens of the Bittern (*Botaurus Australis* Spotted Owl (*Athene maculata*) and Spine-tailed Swift (*Acanthylis caudacuta*).
12. From M. Allport, Esq. A White Hawk (*Astur Nova Hollandiae*)
13. From Mr. Roblin: A Brown Hawk (*Ieracidea berigiora*).
14. From Mr. Caville. A Ground Parrakeet (*Pezoporus formosus*).
15. From Mr. G. Whitecomb. Specimens of limestone and iron ore, from the neighborhood of the Mersey River (with a letter).
16. From Dr. Milligan, London. Pennant's Arctic Zoology, 3 vols. quarto; Voyages to the South Pacific Ocean in 1786-7-8, 1 vol. quarto; Salmon Fisheries Report, Ireland, 1857; ditto, 1860; ditto, 1862; ditto, England and Wales, 1861; ditto, maps; ditto, 1864; ditto, Scotland, 1860; ditto, 1864; Report on British Fisheries, 1861; Bill for Regulation of ditto, 1861.

Two parcels of dried plants, named, collected in various parts of Italy, supplied from the Royal Museum at Florence.

Seven specimens of lava, &c., from Mount Vesuvius, Naples; 1 ditto from the crater of Solfatara, 2 Roman lamps from ancient funereal urns, 3 fragments of Mosaic pavement from Rome, 1 Roman discobolus or quoit (ancient), 1 parcel of fragments of ancient Roman glass from the Palace of the Cæsars, Rome; 1 parcel of fragments of glass pottery, and enamel ware, from ancient ruins in Rome; 3 parcels of fragments of marble from ditto, 1 parcel of cubes for Mosaic work from the Palace of the Cæsars, 1 fragment of Jaune antique from ruins of ditto, 1 do of Rosso antico from do, 1 Lachrymatory from Palace of the Cæsars, 1 fragment of serpentine from do, 2 parcels of Mosaic cubes from Mount Testacea, Rome; 1 do do from Garden of Sallust, do; 1 do do from the Mausoleum of Augustus, in Rome; Mosaic cubes from Baths of Diocletian, do; do do from Baths of Caracalla, do; 1 piece of Carara marble from Baths of Diocletian, do; 1 do Rosso antico from do; 1 do Porphyry from Baths of Titus, Rome; Mosaic cubes from the half-submerged Temple of Mercury, at Baia; 15 ancient coins from Rome; 1 parcel Roman buttons, so-called, and said to have been used for fastening the toga upon the shoulder; ancient needle and pin obtained at the ruins of the Roman Amphitheatre, at Arles; a parcel of seeds from Rome.

Four parcels from Royal Horticultural Society's Gardens, London, containing 38 varieties of vegetable seeds.

17. From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, United States. Smithsonian Report for 1861, Smithsonian Contributions to Knowledge, vol. 13, 1864, Miscellaneous Collections, vols. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 1862-4.
18. From the United States Government. Introductory Report of Commissioners of Patents, Patent Office Reports, 1860, vols. 1, 2, (Mechanics,) 1861, vols. 1, 2, and 1 vol. Agriculture 5 vols. (bound).
19. From the Boston (U.S.) Society of Natural History. Boston Journal of Natural History, No. 2, 1861, No. 3, 1862, No. 4, 1863, Proceedings of the Society, vol. 9, Constitution and Bye-laws.
20. From the Museum of Comparative Zoology, Boston, Annual Report for 1836.
21. From the author, Lieut.-Col. J. D. Graham, United States Topographical Engineers. Reports on Lake Harbor Improvements, 1857, 1858, 1860, Report on Mason and Dixon's Line, Chicago, 1862.
22. From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences. Proceedings, 1863.

In reference to presentation No. 3, extracts were read from a letter which accompanied it, wherein Mr. Adams states that the specimen was taken by himself from a locality on the banks of the Mersey, about sixteen miles distant from the township of Deloraine. Any quantity could easily be obtained, and there is a good bush road within a mile and a half. The cleavage is vertical. (In the opinion of a practical builder this slate promises well to be valuable, although taken from the surface the quality of the specimen is very good, and probably were a quarry opened it would be found to be still finer at greater depths.)

A letter which had been received with presentation No. 15 was also read, wherein the donor states that the limestone is so plentiful that it can be

"quarried the same as any other stone," and he was informed that the ore was "in equal abundance." The specimens were carefully examined by the Fellows present, and it was evident that the ore was extremely rich in iron. The juxtaposition of the ore and limestone is so important in enhancing the value of each in a manufacturing point of view, that it is to be hoped further action will soon be taken in order to determine if smelting on an extensive scale might not be undertaken with profit to the proprietors, and advantage to the colony.

The very valuable presentation from Dr. Milligan—to whom the Society owes a still increasing debt for the conspicuous zeal and liberality which he has on many occasions exercised in its behalf since his departure from the colony—excited particular notice. Many of the objects were of peculiar interest, such as the ancient Roman quoit, the funereal lamps, the Mosaic work, coins, &c.

In reply to a question, the Secretary observed that the geological specimens sent for from home according to the list furnished by Mr. Gould, were expected in the course of two or three months, and when our present collection was supplemented by these the whole would afford a tolerably complete and systematic means of instruction for the student of geology,

A paper on the "Frogs of Australia," by G. Krefft, Esq. (the zealous naturalist of the Sydney Museum), was read by the Secretary.

In Mr. Abbott's absence, his "Observations on Comet 1, of 1865" were read; and also further notes by the same observer on the star η Argus and its Nebula.

The thanks of the meeting on the motion of Mr. W. JOHNSTON, seconded by Mr. BILTON, were accorded to the donors of presentations, and the authors of the papers just read. It was felt that this compliment was due in an especial degree to Mr. Krefft, who, although but recently elected, a corresponding member of the Society, had already favored it with a communication of such scientific interest that it was hoped it would prove a precursor of many others from the same pen.

The proceedings then terminated.