

ROYAL SOCIETY.

JUNE, 1865.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 13th June. T. Giblin, Esq., in the chair.

H. Hopkins, Jun., Esq., having been previously nominated by the Council, was, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

The SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) laid on the table the usual monthly returns, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum during May, 353.
2. Ditto to Gardens, ditto, 1,610.
3. Plants and Seeds received at Gardens :—From Messrs. Handaside and McMillan, Melbourne, 24 plants. From H. Hull, Esq., 9 papers of seeds from New Zealand. From Col. Chesney, 1 paper of grass seed from England.
4. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens :—To Messrs. Handaside and McMillan, 84 plants. To Colonel Chesney, for decoration of ground at the Macquarie-street entrance to Queen's Park, 147 plants.
5. Books and Periodicals received.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
(a) Table for May.
(b) Summary of Observations for ditto.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
(a) Table for April.
(b) Reading of Government schooner's Barometer for ditto.
3. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, jun., Esq.
(a) Table for May.
4. Ross, from M. Duncanson, Esq.
(a) Table for May.

The SECRETARY read the usual Analysis of the Meteorological Observations, with a Health Report for the month by E. S. Hall, Esq.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. A monkey, from Batavia. Presented by Mrs. McMinn.
2. Specimen of Calc Spar, from Lime Hill, Western District, Southland, New Zealand. Presented by Captain Brown, of the Eucalyptus.
3. Pair of buffalo horns, and two Indian fans. Presented by A. Moses, Esq.
4. Fifty prepared bird-skins, 9 specimens of reptiles, and 108 of fish. Presented by Dr. Möbius, of the Hamburgh Museum, per L. Susman, Esq.
5. Long-billed Cockatoo (*Licmetis nasicus*). Presented by H. Hopkins, jun., Esq.
6. Crustacean found in the kelp at Tinder-box Bay.
7. Gold in quartz, obtained at Spring River, near Port Davey (?) Presented by Mr. H. McDonagh.
8. A woollen mask (knitted work) worn as a protection from the cold by travellers over the Andes. Presented by Mrs. T. Giblin.
9. Skin of Tiger-cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*). From M. Allport, Esq.
10. A block of the bituminous substance from which the paraffine oil of commerce is distilled. From the Hartley Coal Mines, New South Wales. Presented by Mr. W. Johnston, for Mr. McRae.
11. Nest of English Thrush (*Turdus musicus*), built in one day in Mr. Propsting's aviary. A family two of were reared in this nest. Presented by Mr. Propsting.

The nest was built of shreds from a soogee bag which had been ravelled out by Mr. Propsting and placed in a locality to which the birds had access, and it was lined with clay which had also been provided for them. It was of interest not only on account of the very short period which was occupied in building it, but also from the fact of its being the first nest in the colony in which a young brood of the English songster had been reared.

A vote of thanks (moved by Mr. NICHOL and seconded by Mr. FACEY) to the donors of presentations was agreed to.

Agreeably to the resolution passed at last meeting, the Museum and Library were now thrown open for a Microscopical Exhibition, and as each Fellow had the privilege of introducing two ladies, the rooms were soon crowded with visitors.

Seventeen microscopes were arranged on tables, and to each instrument a card was attached containing the name of the exhibitor with a list of the objects for examination. The instruments were by Smith and Beach, Ross, G. Oberhauser, &c. Of the Fellows of the Society, Mr. Abbott, Mr. Abbott, junr., Dr. Agnew, Mr. M. Allport, Dr. Butler, Col. Chesney, Mr. H. Johnston, Mr. T. Giblin, Dr. Turnley, and Mr. Roblin (Curator), exhibited instruments, and Dr. Bright, Mr. Stone, and Mr. Legrand kindly acted as volunteers for the occasion. The microscope belonging to Mr. Stone (by Smith & Beck) attracted attention as being the only one present of the binocular construction.

With so many good instruments, and with powers ranging from 50 up to 1000 diameters, a great variety of objects were submitted for examination. Amongst others might be noticed the circulation of the blood in animals (tail of Tadpole); circulation of the sap in plants (*Nitella*); animal tissue; vegetable tissue; method of measuring accurately microscopic objects; diatoms in great variety from this colony, and from England and elsewhere; infusoria; crystals; photographs; and many other objects of a miscellaneous character.

The evening was far advanced before the various objects were exhausted, and on retiring the visitors expressed so much satisfaction with the exhibition, that it is probable a similar meeting will be held at the close of the session, at which period of the year (summer) many natural objects which cannot be now procured will be obtainable.