

ROYAL SOCIETY.

AUGUST, 1865.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows took place on Tuesday, the 8th August. The chair was taken by His Excellency, the President, at half-past seven o'clock.

Mr. William Stone, who had 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 July, 541.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 1,140.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens:—From Messrs. Handaside and Mc Millan, Melbourne, one box containing 13 plants. From A. Verschaffelt, Ghent, Belgium, 186 papers of seeds.
4. Plants supplied from Gardens for decoration of grounds of General Hospital, 126.
5. Books and Periodicals received (the usual).

Meteorological Returns :—

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

The usual analysis of the Hobart Town Observatory Records, together with those of Births, Deaths, &c. for July, by E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq., was read by the Secretary.

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

1. Two Black Opossums (*Phalangista fuliginosa*). From M. Allport, Esq.
2. Lamprey caught in the Coal River, near Jerusalem. From the Rev. Mr. Marum, per Dr. E. S. Hall.
3. Foetal Ray, in its case. From A. B. Jones, Esq.
4. Tasmanian Kingfisher (*Alcyon azurea*). From Mr. J. Lumsden, New Norfolk.
5. A collection of mineral specimens from Victoria, presented by Professor Irving per M. Allport, Esq.:—Silver Ore, Chloro-bromide of Silver, from St. Arnaud. Cassiterite from the Ovens. Ditto from Beechworth (3 specimens). Cassiterite with Iserine, from Strathbogie, Euroa. Oxide of tin. Large grained Titanic iron sand. Octohedral Chromite. Gem sand, principally Zircon and Sapphire.
6. Sample of prepared tobacco, grown at the Carlton. Presented by A. Steel, Esq.

Mr. W. Johnston exhibited, on behalf of Mr. J. Risby and Mr. R. J. Edwards, several specimens of gold-bearing quartz obtained by them from their claim at Fingal at a depth of about 80 feet. On trial it had been found to yield seven grains of gold to ten pounds of quartz. The manager of the Company is very sanguine of success, but does not wish to say anything definite until ten tons of the quartz are crushed.

A paper was read by Mr. E. Swarbreck Hall on the Lamprey (presentation No. 2) which was before the meeting. The specimen presented the peculiarity

of being furnished with a large pouch, capable of holding about $1\frac{1}{2}$ ounces of fluid, on its ventral surface immediately behind the mouth, and extending as far backwards as the second gill opening. The parieties of the sac were altogether membranous and cutaneous, no trace of muscular fibre could be detected, nor could any opening into the gullet or elsewhere be discovered. It may possibly act in the same manner as the swimming bladder of other fish, which is absent in the Lampreys, but as additional specimens are expected from the same locality it is intended to have a more minute dissection before forming any positive opinion on the subject.

The proceedings were closed by the usual vote of thanks.