

ROYAL SOCIETY.

NOVEMBER, 1865.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held at the Museum on Tuesday, the 14th November, The Hon. R. Officer, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

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

1. Visitors to Museum during October, 470.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 1907.
3. Tench supplied ditto, 6.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
5. Books and periodicals received.

Meteorological Returns.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
 - (a) Table for October:
 - (b) Abstract of ditto.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
 - (a) Table for September.
 - (b) Reading of schooner's Barometer for ditto.
4. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq.
 - (a) Table for October.
5. Ross, from M. Duncanson, Esq.
 - (a) Table for September.
 - (b) Ditto for October.
6. From G. Smalley, Esq., Government Astronomer, Sydney.
 - (a) Monthly Meteorological Tables from June 1857 to December 1858.
 - (b) Ditto ditto for 1859.
 - (c) Astronomical Observations, Sydney, for 1859.
 - (d) Astronomical and Meteorological ditto, 1860.
 - (e) Ditto ditto ditto 1861.
 - (f) Ditto ditto ditto 1862.
 - (g) Meteorological ditto 1863.
 - (h) Diagrams (4) of Barometrical Curves at Stations in New South Wales.

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

Dr. HALL called the attention of the meeting to the fact that during the prevalence of the hot-wind on Saturday last, (11th inst.,) the self-registering Shade Thermometer, at Mr. Abbott's observatory at 1 p.m. recorded a temperature of 95 degrees, and the Solar Thermometer 129½ degrees. In 33 hours afterwards the Shade Thermometer had fallen 50 degrees.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. Skeleton of Dolphin (*Delphinus Sp.*) Presented by M. Allport, Esq.
2. Specimen of Squid (*Loligo*). Presented by Captain Smith, barque Catherine.
3. Ditto of Holothuria, from Sandy Bay. Presented by H. M. Hull, Esq.
4. Ditto of Flounder, malformed. Presented by Mr. Cearns.
5. Four copper coins, one American cent; one 20 cash, East India Company; one half-penny token, St. Helena, and one token, unknown. Presented by Mr. J. Nathan.
6. Tippet Grebe (*Podiceps Australis*). Presented by J. G. Stansfield, Esq., Jericho.
7. "Volcanic Bombs," from Mount Talbot, Victoria. Presented by Dr. Officer.

A pamphlet by Col. Crawford (Richmond) entitled "A Letter to the Officers of H. M. Indian Services, Civil and Military," accompanied by a letter presenting it to the Society, was laid on the table.

The SECRETARY after reminding the Fellows that the Society had been honored by the presentation by Her Majesty (our patron) of a copy of "The principal speeches and addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince

Consort," reported that a letter of thanks from the Society for the donation had been transmitted to the proper authority by His Excellency the President, and that the following reply had recently been received from the Rt. Hon. the Secretary of State for the colonies.

TASMANIA—SEPARATE.

Downing-street,
July 24th, 1865.

SIR, - I have had the honor to receive, and duly to submit to Her Majesty your despatch, separate, of the 23rd December, 1864, enclosing the address of thanks from the Honorary Secretary of the Royal Society of Tasmania, for the copy of the principal speeches and addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort, presented by Her Majesty to that institution.

I am commanded to express to you in reply that the Queen has been very much gratified and soothed by the expressions of loyalty and attachment to herself, and of veneration for the character of the Prince Consort, which are contained in that address, and in the addresses which Her Majesty has received from so many other distinguished and learned bodies throughout the colonies.

You will have the goodness to communicate this reply to the Royal Society of Tasmania.

I have the honor to be,
Sir,
Your most obedient, humble servant,
Signed) EDWARD CARDWELL.

Governor Gore Browne, C.B.
&c., &c., &c.

At the request of some of the members present, the following letter of thanks, above referred to, was read :

Royal Society of Tasmania,
Hobart Town, December 21st, 1864.

SIR,—I have been requested by the Council of the Royal Society to acknowledge the receipt from your Excellency of a copy of "The Principal Speeches and Addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort," also of a despatch from the Right Honorable the Secretary of State for the Colonies, by which we are informed that the volume is presented to the Society by Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen.

On opening it we find, affixed to the words of presentation, the autograph of Her Majesty.

It is difficult to give expression to the feelings of pride and gratification with which we acknowledge the honor thus conferred on us. And if in the presentation there is a tone of unceasing sorrow, it but deepens our reverence for a beloved sovereign who, in the midst of her grief, can thus, by an attention to one of the remotest and smallest of her colonies, exhibit for our guidance a shining example of that devotion to duty which ever won the approval of His late Royal Highness, and was the great guiding principle of his life.

We, therefore, beg that your Excellency, as President, will be pleased to transmit our thanks to Her Majesty, not alone as our Gracious Queen, but as Patron of the Royal Society of Tasmania, and to convey our humble assurances that this copy of "The Principal Speeches and Addresses of His Royal Highness the Prince Consort" with which we have been honored, will for ever be preserved by us as an invaluable treasure.

I have the honor to remain,
Your Excellency's very obedient servant,
(Signed) J. W. AGNEW, M.D.,
Hon. Sec.

Mr. ABBOTT laid on the table an abstract of the Meteorological Observations taken at the Light Houses and other stations in Tasmania for the half-year ended 30th June, 1865. Mr. Abbott also read some notes in reference to various phenomena, recorded in the abstract.

A vote of thanks having been passed to Mr. Abbott and to the donors of presentations, the meeting broke up.