

ROYAL SOCIETY.

MAY, 1866.

The usual monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 8th May, J. Barnard Esq., in the chair.

Charles S. Cansdell, 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 April, 501.
2. Ditto to gardens, ditto, 1 623.
3. Times of leafing, flowering, &c., of a few standard plants in gardens.
4. Periodicals, &c., received.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
 - a. Table for April.
 - b. Summary of Observations for ditto.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
 - a. Table for March.
 - b. Reading of government schooner's barometer for ditto.
3. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq.
 - a. Table for March.
 - b. Ditto ditto April.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.
 - a. Table for April.

The SECRETARY read a communication from E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq., to the effect that owing to illness he had been unable to prepare, in time for the meeting, the usual "Analysis of the Hobart Town Meteorological Records," and remarking that the "Meteorological phenomena last month, favourable and unfavorable to health and life, were so nicely balanced that the number of deaths, 45, is within a fraction of the average of the previous nine years, 45 1-9, though seven more than April, 1865. Atmospheric pressure was continuously high, with slight perturbations. Aerial motion for the first and last five days of the month favorable, but otherwise in the intervening period. Temperature much above the average, particularly terrestrial radiation. Elastic force of vapor very great. Rain-fall small. Jzone fair, but much less than April, 1865. A total absence of electricity for many days."

The presentations were as follows :—

1. From H. M. Hull, Esq. Four specimens star fish.
2. From W. L. Gellibrand, Esq. Head and hide of Native Tiger, (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*.)
3. From R. Maddock, Esq., Dunrobin. Skin of Owlet Nightjar, (*Egotheles Novæ Hollandiæ*), and head of Thylacinus.
4. From Mr. L. A. Davies. Seeds of Chinese tea plant.
5. From Mr. S.H. Wintle. Seven specimens of photographic typography, and three photographic copies of engravings.

In reference to presentation No. 4, the Secretary read a letter from the donor to the effect that these seeds were obtainable at the price of 5s. per single lb., or 2s. 6d. per lb., if purchased by the cwt., from a firm in Melbourne by whom they had been imported direct from China.

The general opinion among those present was that the climate of Tasmania

would be unsuitable to the tea plant, chiefly on account of the summer frosts. The seeds, however, will be tried in the Society's Gardens; and some were also taken by the Fellows for planting in other localities.

Mr. Morton ALLPORT read a paper on the "Late successful experiment for the introduction of salmo ova, and sea trout ova into Tasmania."

After reading the paper, Mr. M. Allport, in answer to queries on the subject, mentioned that the first batch of smolts left the breeding ponds in September. They were seen in the Plenty till November, and therefore probably reached the sea early in December. Authorities were divided as to the probable period of their return. According to some they might be expected in three months, according to others, with whom he agreed, in about 15 months. In reference to the use of ice, Mr. M. Allport observed that on the occasion of the first unfortunate shipment, by the Beautiful Star, after all the ova in the cases had died, at about the 70th day of the voyage, Mr. Ramsbottom on clearing out the contents of the ice house, found a little box which had previously been deposited in the ice. On opening it, he found to his astonishment that it contained many living ova, and although these subsequently died when the ice failed, it was clear that their prolonged vitality was entirely due to the extreme degree of cold to which they had been subjected. Mr. Ramsbottom on his arrival reported the circumstance to the Salmon Commissioners, who considered it of such importance that they at once determined before making another attempt to introduce the ova, to send Mr. Ramsbottom home for the purpose of making a series of experiments as to the influence of cold in retarding incubation.

The result of these experiments was well known, and the consequence has been, that both subsequent shipments have been crowned with success. Of the last he thought there were about 50,000 healthy ova now safely deposited in the breeding ponds.

Mr. BARNARD was glad to see that full justice had been done to Mr. Youl. He (Mr. Barnard) happened to be in London on the occasion of the first shipment, and could bear ample testimony as to the immense amount of trouble taken by Mr. Youl, and to the untiring zeal and energy he at all times displayed in the cause.

Mr. M. ALLPORT remarked that the Salmon Commissioners were fully aware of the obligations they all were under to Mr. Youl, and that it gave them the greatest pleasure to record and acknowledge the fact.

On the motion of Mr. DAVIES, seconded by Mr. F. ABBOTT, the thanks of the meeting were given to Mr. M. Allport for the paper just read; and the same having also been accorded to the donors, of presentations, the proceedings terminated.