

ROYAL SOCIETY.

JUNE, 1866.

The monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 12th June. F. Abbott, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen (who had been previously nominated by the Council) were, after a ballot, declared to be duly elected as Fellows of the Society:— C. B. Wilkinson, Esq., E. Swan, Esq., and J. C. Mace, Esq.

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

1. Visitors to Museum during May, 457.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 1342.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens :—
 - a. From M. Allport, Esq., seeds of White Waterlily (*Nymphaea alba*.)
 - b. From T. Paterson, Esq., Sydney, 9 varieties Pelargonium cuttings, 7 papers seeds, and 14 plants.
4. Plants, &c., sent from the Society's Gardens, by the Victoria, to the Melbourne Botanic Gardens, 289 plants, 100 papers of seeds, and 9 varieties of forest seeds.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
6. 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, and reading of Government schooner's barometer.
 - b. Ditto for May, and ditto, ditto.
3. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.
 - a. Table for May.
4. Swansea, from Dr. Story.
 - a. Table for April.

The SECRETARY read the usual analysis of the Observatory Records and Health Report for the past month, by E. S. Hall, Esq.

Dr. HALL observed that his remarks relative to the difference in the amount of rainfall at various places were borne out by the returns before the meeting.

The amount recorded for May at Port Arthur was 3·86in. ; at Westbury for the same month, 3·64in. ; while at Hobart Town it was only 1·82in.

Mr. ABBOTT observed that as an almost invariable rule the observations showed a much higher rainfall at Circular Head and Port Arthur than at any other locality, and he was certain were stations established on the West Coast generally, that there also the rainfall would be found to be very great.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. From the Rev. Dr. Nicolson, a collection of native dresses, weapons, &c., from Samoa, viz.—A native dress, five pieces native cloth, a model of a canoe, a "killing stone," a hair fishing-line, and six specimens coral.
2. From W. Elliston, Esq., a recent specimen of the Shoveller Duck (*Spatula rhynchotis*).
3. From Mrs. Wear, a Canary, stuffed and mounted.
4. From H. Hopkins, jun., Esq., an Australian Boomerang.
5. From W. P. Latham, Esq., Hamilton, a Crow, (*Corvus coronoides*) curiously marked.
6. From T. J. Falls, Esq., specimen of Pipe Fish (*Syngnathus sp.*)

7. From M. Allport, Esq., eighteen specimens of Tasmanian *Unio* (fresh water mussel).

8. From F. Abbott, Esq., a collection of Old Newspapers, viz. :—

“Some questions on Arbitration in Exchange,” 1523.

“The Case of John Hussey, of Cambridge,” 1698.

The Observer, June, 1702, to September, 1723.

“Address of the Lords Spiritual and Temporal,” 1707.

“Lord Haversham’s Speech,” 1707.

The British Apollo, during 1708.

The British Mercury, 1711.

The Daily Courant, 1711.

“Mercator, or Commerce Retrieved,” 1712, edited by Defoe. First newspaper stamped for Revenue.

The Flying Post, or Post-Master, 1712, edited by Defoe.

The British Merchant, 1713 and 1714.

The Medley, 1715. Stamped.

The London Journal, 1721 and 1722.

The Weekly Journal, or British Gazetteer, 1722-3.

The British Journal, 1723.

“On the loss of Sir Cloudesly Shovel.” No date.

“Verses spoken at Cambridge.” No date.

“His Majesty’s Speech to both Houses of Parliament,” 1730-1-2.

“Proposals of Agreement between the South Sea Company and the Bank of England.”

“Copy of that Clause in the Last Charter granted to the City of Norwich by Charles the 2nd, relating to the choice of an Alderman.”

And several other papers without date.

Mr. ABBOTT read some notes on the papers presented by him, showing the importance of preserving these old files of newspapers, as they were frequently found to be very valuable for reference. Among them were two (“Mercator, or Commerce Retrieved,” 1712, and *The Flying Post, or Post-Master*, 1712) of considerable interest, from their being edited by Defoe. Mr. Abbott also read a list (from “Notes and Queries”) of scarce publications enumerated in the Harleian catalogue at the British Museum, and not found elsewhere.

Votes of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Abbott, and to the donors of the various presentations, the meeting broke up.