

## ROYAL SOCIETY.

AUGUST, 1866.

The usual monthly evening meeting of the Fellows was held on Tuesday, the 14th August. The Ven. Archdeacon Davies in the chair.

Mr. J. M. Clarke, 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 following returns for the past month :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 446.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 678.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens :—
  - a. From Dr. Officer, seeds of *Pittosporum tenuifolium*, and *Aralea Schaeffleri*, received from the Acclimatisation Society, Christchurch, New Zealand.
  - b. From Dr. Mueller, Melbourne Botanic Gardens.—Scions of 43 varieties of Fruit; 12 varieties Phaseolus, 48 Peas, 43 Beans, 12 Lentils, &c.
  - c. From the same, for the decoration of the proposed cemetery.—71 Coniferæ, 117 varieties of Trees and Shrubs, 90 Oaks, 30 Suckers of *Myrica gale*.
  - d. From Mr. A. Beames, Sydney, 30 papers of Californian seeds.
4. Plants sent from Gardens.
  - a. To W. A. B. Gellibrand, Esq.—Scions of 48 varieties of Apple, 26 Pears, 18 Plums, 10 Gooseberries, and 2 Currants; total, 101 varieties.
  - b. To Director of Public Works, for Franklin-square, 97 plants.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
6. Books and periodicals received.

*Meteorological Returns.*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.
  - a. Table for July.
  - b. Summary of observations for ditto.
2. Port Arthur, from J. Boyd, Esq.
  - a. Table for July.
  - b. Reading of schooner's barometer for ditto.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story.
  - a. Table for May.
  - b. Ditto for June.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.
  - a. Table for July.
5. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq.
  - a. Table for July.
6. From F. Abbott, Esq.
  - a. Table of Results of Meteorological Observations made in Tasmania, from 1st July to 31st Dec., 1865.

The SECRETARY read the usual "Analysis of the Hobart Town Meteorological Records, and Health Report" for the month, by E. Swarbreck Hall, Esq.

Dr. HALL drew attention to the remarkable fact indicated in the returns for the month of July, that although winds were very frequent, and of unusual violence, round the coasts of the neighboring continent, calmer weather than usual prevailed in the vicinity of Hobart Town, and round the seaboard of Tasmania generally.

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

1. From Dr. Cox, Sydney, about 100 varieties Shells.
2. From Mr. Thatcher, per Mr. Legrand, 20 ditto.

3. From J<sup>r</sup>. Officer, two specimens Nankeen Night Heron (*Nycticorax Caledonicus*).
4. From J. Maclanachan, Esq., a Californian Quail.
5. From Col. Chesney, a Spotted Owl (*Athene maculata*.)
6. From J. Swan, Esq., a White Kangaroo Rat.
7. From E. Swan, Esq., a Kingfisher (*Aleyone azurea*.)
8. From M. Allport, Esq., a Crayfish.
9. From Master L. Agnew, a bronze Coin.
10. From Captain McArthur, barque Aladdin, Bow and Arrows from Aurora Island, a Spear from Espirito Santo, a Native Girdle from Leper Island.
11. From Captain Browne, barque Nightingale, a War Dress from Pleasant Island, a Hat from Straits of Bali.
12. From Mr. C. C. Schaw, two specimens of *Sphaeria Robertsia*, from New Zealand.
13. From Mr. C. Bastian, sample of auriferous Iron Sand from New Zealand, specimens of a peculiar tissue forming the inside of the leaf of a New Zealand tree.
14. From Hon. E. Abbott, Esq., M.L.C., a specimen of Kauri gum.
15. From Colonel Chesney, specimens of quartz from the Union Company's new reef at Mangana.
16. From T. Stephens, Esq., the Athenæum, complete for years 1861-2-3-4.

Mr. M. ALLPORT read a "Notice of some Fossils recently discovered near Risdon," and which he largely illustrated by a collection submitted for examination by the meeting.

Mr. GOULD observed that the study of these tertiary deposits was of great interest, taken in connection with our other tertiary deposits, both of fresh water and marine origin occurring generally along the sea-board of the island. He described in some little detail the formations at Coal Head, in Macquarie Harbor, where fresh water deposits of sand, clay, and gravel form cliffs of from eighty to one hundred feet in height, and in which plant-remains, leaves, &c., occur abundantly, together with lignite; whence the name of the headland. He also alluded to the raised beaches, and marine tertiary drift, constituting largely the north-eastern part of the island, and discussed slightly the age of the different eruptions of basalt with reference to these deposits. Mr. Gould called the attention of the Society to some specimens of iron ore belonging to two mineral species, viz., Magnetic Oxide, and Brown Hæmatite, both of which he stated occurred abundantly in the vicinity of the Tamar River, near Ilfracombe, the first containing 72 per cent. of iron, the other varying up to 60 per cent. He forbore going into detail, as he said that would be the subject of a report to Parliament, but merely pointed out some interesting facts in connection with the variations of the specific character of the iron according to the country traversed; which he described as consisting of formations corresponding with those forming a large portion of the western district of Tasmania. He speculated briefly on the possibility of reducing the ore by means of charcoal,—referring to the superior quality of the iron produced direct by this means to that obtained by ordinary processes. He also pointed out that these iron deposits were metallic lodes, and not new superficial deposits.

Conversational discussion ensued as to the probable metalliferous resources of the island, and

The usual vote of thanks to the authors of papers and the donors of presentations, having been accorded,

The meeting broke up.