

MAY, 1873.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 13th May, J. Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

In the absence of Dr. Agnew, Mr. M. Allport acted as Secretary.

Messrs. A. Hopkins and J. W. Briant, who had previously been nominated by the Council, were, after a ballot, declared duly elected Fellows of the Society.

The following returns were brought under notice :—

1. Visitors to Museum during April, 1408.
2. Ditto to Gardens ditto, 2,843.
3. Plants received at and sent from Gardens
4. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Society's Gardens.
5. Books and periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table, &c., for April.
2. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.—Ditto for March.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story—Ditto for February.
4. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq.—Printed tables for February.
5. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq.—Ditto.
6. New Zealand, from Dr. Hector—Ditto July to December, 1872.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From Mr. Inches, Shipwright's Point—A specimen of fossiliferous limestone from that locality.
2. From Mr. Stewart, New Town—Two butterfly gurnards.
3. From Mr. Miles—Sample of oil from "Cowfish" (*Delphinus sp.*)
4. From the Rev. D. Freeman—Specimens of Prawns obtained about three miles at sea off the mouth of Lyttelton harbour, New Zealand.

[In reference to this presentation the donor states that when leaving Lyttelton harbour the vessel in which he was a passenger sailed during a whole day through masses of these crustaceans—the water being literally alive with them—so that they could readily be captured by dipping a bucket over the ship's side; and had a suitable net been available an enormous quantity might easily have been taken. To all appearance they are identical in species with specimens taken at various times from the stomachs of fish caught in Tasmanian waters].

5. From Mr. J. Newman.—A very large species of Mantis, from Adelaide.
6. Bark of Paper Bark Tree (*Melaleuca sp.*)
7. From Mr. T. G. Kearney, Coal River.—A Rosella Parrot unusually marked.
8. From Mr. L. Young, Howrah.—A Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus.*)
9. From Mr. Luckman, Clarence Plains, a white-fronted Falcon (*Falco lunulatus*) of an unusual colour.
10. From Mr. Stopford.—A curious excrescence on a root of Black Wattle.
11. From J. Forster Esq.—Samples of Tin Ore &c., from Mount Bischoff, Tasmania.
12. From Captain Tyson.—A box, used as a Bee hive, filled with honeycomb.
13. From Mr. Simpson. An exploded Bomb Lance, and the ear-bone of a Whale, found on Bird Island.
14. From the Ven. Archdeacon Davies, specimens of Coal and Iron Ore, from Rostrevor, Spring Bay.
15. From Mr. Gill, Rheban.—The bony palate of an Angel Ray.

16. From Mr. F. S. Edgar.—An old view of the country round Hobart Town, taken from Mount Nelson.
17. From Mr. J. Brown, Survey Department.—A fine sample of Kidney Iron Ore from Ilfracombe—with a note.

In reference to the parrot presented by Mr. Kearney, Mr. SWAN remarked that he believed it to be an abnormal specimen of *Rosella* (*Platyercus eximius*) only, and not a cross—as aberrant forms of this genus were very frequent.

As to the Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*) the same gentleman expressed his belief that it was only a casual visitor to Tasmania, as its proper habitat was further north, and the nest had never, so far as he knew, been discovered in this Colony.

After reading some remarks by Mr. Rollings, of Forcett, as to the stone implements of our aborigines, the Acting-Secretary observed that it was strange none of the handles spoken of, as being used with the larger implements, had been preserved ; and Mr. Swan suggested that it was quite possible those natives whom Mr. Rollings had seen fixing handles to the stones had acquired the art from Europeans, as none of the early accounts mentioned implements with handles.

The attention of the Fellows was especially called to the mounted specimens of the Apteryx and Night Parrot, which had been admirably set up by Mr. Gaskell of Melbourne at a very trifling cost. The difficulty of the work must have been enhanced by the poor quality of the skins sent over, and if fresh skins of our own mammals and birds were from time to time supplied, charming additions might be made to the Museum collection.

The meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the donors of presentations.