

OCTOBER, 1873.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, the 13th Oct. ; the Right Rev. the Lord Bishop of Tasmania in the chair.

The following new members were balloted for, and declared duly elected, viz., Miss Davis and Miss Gellibrand, of Hobart Town ; Messrs. Wm. Bedford, of Bothwell, W. E. Shoobridge, of New Norfolk, and J. Bidenscope, of Hobart Town.

The SECRETARY laid before the meeting the following returns :—

1. Visitors to Museum during September, 1,549.
- 2, Ditto to Gardens, 2,940.
3. Seeds received at Gardens.
4. Books and Periodicals received.
5. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table for September.
2. Port Arthur, from A. H. Boyd, Esq., ditto.
3. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., ditto, August and September.
4. Swansea, from Dr. G. F. Story, ditto August.
5. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq., ditto September.
6. From the Hobart Town Marine Board, monthly tables received from the lighthouses, &c., viz. :—
 - (a) King's Island (*observer, Mr. A. N. Spong*), January to June, 1873.
 - (b) Swan Island (*observer, Mr. C. C. Baudinet*), August and September.
 - (c) Goose Island (*observer, Mr. R. H. Napper*), August and September.
 - (d) Kent's Group (*observer, Mr. T. Morgan*), August.
 - (e) Mount Nelson (*observer, Mr. J. Duffey*), August and September.
7. Melbourne, from R. J. Ellery, Esq., Government Astronomer, printed tables for April.
8. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq., B.A., Government Astronomer, table for May.

[In the above returns observations for New Norfolk will be noticed for the first time. They have been kindly undertaken by Mr. W. E. Shoobridge, and will be regularly furnished to the Society.]

The presentations to the Museum and Library were as follows :—

1. From Captain Fenton.—A young native Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*).
2. From the Rev. J. W. Simmonds.—A specimen of Tin from the smelting works of Bolitho and Co., Penzance, Cornwall.
3. From Miss Hissey—A sparrow, prepared and mounted.
4. From Mr. C. A. Glover, Sorell—Eight Tasmanian shells, viz., 2 fine specimens of *Anatina sp.*, 2 specimens of *A. Tasmanica*, two valves of *Pholas sp.*, &c.
5. From Jas. Scott, Esq., M.H.A.—A large number of stone implements of Tasmanian aborigines, from Mount Morriston.
6. From J. E. Calder, Esq.—Two skulls of Forester Kangaroo. (*Macropus major*.)
7. From F. C. Hull, Esq.—Iron ore from Southport, four limestone fossils from Tolosa, O'Brien's Bridge.
8. From Dr. Agnew—Chambers's Encyclopædia, complete, 10 vols.
9. From S. Hannaford, Esq.—A remarkable abnormal form of a common Tasmanian plant, *Tetratheca pilosa*, caused apparently by a number of stems having become fused together.

The SECRETARY prefaced the reading of the following letter by referring

to the deep debt of gratitude we owed to the distinguished writer, Baron von Mueller, for his labours in the field of Tasmanian Botany. These labours, which we had fully recognised, have on many occasions called forth our warm appreciation and grateful acknowledgment, and it would be noticed from the concluding portion of the letter that the Baron, if circumstances permitted, was about to confer a still further obligation on the Society by compiling a complete list of all known Tasmanian plants, accurately named according to the most recent nomenclature :—

“Melbourne,

“22nd September, 1873.

“You are again entitled, dear Dr. Agnew, to the expressions of my deep gratitude for the extremely generous manner in which you brought my poor essay before the Royal Society of Tasmania, also for the ready response to my suggestion of electing Professor Agardh into your ranks. I will inform by the next post my illustrious friend of the honour conferred on him.

“I trust to collect a few more additional notes on Tasmanian plants from time to time from materials in my Museum, even should I not get from settlers on your island occasional contributions of the plants around them.

“Perhaps the gentleman who lately explored King’s Island, has brought plants with him, or took at least notice whether any particular objects of vegetation, such as the Mistletoe, (*Loranthus*) did appear there, Would you kindly ask him? Perhaps he also would be in the position to say whether I could address any one there settled, with a prospect of really getting any extensive collection gradually from there. The vegetation of King’s Island is worth examining. Thus, I find now that *stipa crinita* occurs there, while it seems absent in Tasmania.

“Next year I hope to draw up a list of the plants actually occurring in your island, under the adoption of those names which, after the advance of observation since the issue of Dr. Hooker’s work, is demanded.

“FERD. VON. MUELLER.”

The Bishop read a highly interesting paper on “The Law of Weather and Storms” which was listened to with much attention.

Mr. Grant, after some remarks on the importance of the subject of the paper just read, and on the very lucid, interesting, and suggestive manner in which it had been treated, moved a special vote of thanks to His Lordship. This having been given and acknowledged, the proceedings were closed by the usual vote to the donors of presentations.