

ROYAL SOCIETY.

MARCH, 1874.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held at the Museum, on Tuesday, the 10th March, His Honor Mr. Justice Dobson in the chair.

The Secretary brought forward the following returns received since last meeting :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 1517.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 3793.
3. Plants, &c., sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during the month.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Tables for January and February.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto December and January.
3. Port Arthur, from A. H. Boyd, Esq.—Ditto for January and February.
4. Westbury, from F. Belstead, Esq.—Ditto for January.
5. Tamar Heads, from R. Henry, Esq.—Monthly tables complete for 1873.
6. Sydney, from the Government Observer—Printed tables for September, October, and November, 1873.
7. New Zealand, from Dr. Hector—Printed tables for each month, from January 1873, to January 1874, for Wellington.
8. New Zealand, from the same—Printed tables for various stations, January to November 1873.
9. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq.—Ditto for October and November 1873.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. N. P. Allison.—Sample of Iron Ore, and a spherical boulder of Greenstone, from Hunterston, Bothwell.
2. From Mr. Bernard Shaw.—Specimens of Serpentine and Asbestos, from West Tamar ; Tin Ore, from the Ovens, Victoria ; Black Sand, often mistaken for tin ore.
3. From Mr. Goodwin, per Mr. B. Shaw.—A very rich specimen of Auriferous Quartz, from Nine Mile Springs, Tasmania.
4. From Mrs. Parsons.—A small collection of Birds' Eggs ; Skins of Penguin and Beaver Rat.
5. From Mr. S. H. Wintle.—A collection of Mineral Specimens, viz. :—
 - 2 Specimens of Iron Ore, from Tunbridge.
 - 2 Ditto ditto (Brown Hematite), from Green Ponds.
 - 1 Ditto ditto, from Avoca.
 - 2 Ditto ditto, from Richmond.
 - 1 Ditto ditto, from Port Esperance.
 - 1 Ditto ditto, with Manganese, from Hope Island, Port Esperance.

- 1 Specimen of Iron Ore (Limonite), from Southport.
- 2 Samples of Coal, from Mount Nicholas (one from 16 feet seam).
- 1 Ditto, from Mount Malcolm, Fingal.
- 1 Ditto, from Mr. Groom's, Harefield.
- 1 Specimen of Amygdaloidal Basalt, from North West Bay.
- 1 Ditto Kerosene Shale, from Hartley, New South Wales.
- 3 Mineral Specimens, unnamed, &c., &c.
6. From Mr. Pybus, Bruni Island.—A very fine specimen of Echinus, from Bird Island.
7. From T. R. Atkinson, Esq., Launceston.—42 Prepared Skins of Queensland Birds.
8. From Simeon Lord, Esq.—6 beautiful specimens of Copper Ore, from the mine of Messrs. Henry, Cloncurry River, Northern Queensland.
9. From W. V. Legge, Esq., R.A.—Edible nest of Swift, from Ceylon ; 3 Eggs of Ceylon Birds ; Stomachs of *Cuculus inornatus* and *C. cinereus*.
10. From Mrs. Morant, Sandy Bay.—A Chart of British Ornithology. —“Notes on English Architecture, Costume and Monuments.”—The Exhibition Buildings, 1862 ; Printed Paper on the Hastings Sand ; A collection of Architectural and other engravings ; Four Babylonish Coins, date unknown, judged prior to Alexander who was born 346 B.C.
11. From Captain H. Robinson, of the “Queen of the Sea.”—Skull of a young Alligator.
12. From Mr. E. D. Blundstone.—Skull of a Pelican.
13. From T. Stephens, Esq.—A Shell (*Triton lampas*.)
14. From Mr. C. Hallet, Glen Quorn.—A Black Snake (*Hoplocephalus curtus*) 5ft. 11½ inches in length, killed by Master Hallet.
15. From C. H. Grant, Esq.—Fossil plant impressions from Claremont Park, Glenorchy.
16. From Mr. Hissey.—Two specimens of the Dusky-footed Rat (*Mus fuscipes*) from Mt. Wellington.
17. From W. A. B. Gellibrand, Esq.—1 Ditto.
18. From Mr. Newby.—A White Hawk (*Leucospiza Novæ Hollandiæ*.)

The SECRETARY read some notes by W. V. Legge, Esq., R.A., on the lead coloured Flycatcher (*Myiagra plumbea*), a bird not previously supposed to occur in Tasmania, but of which the writer had lately procured a fine example near Falmouth.

Mr. E. D. SWAN observed that these birds were common in Victoria. They were tamer in their habits than our Flycatcher, and were frequently found in gardens in the suburbs of town. It was to be recollected that when Gould mentioned New South Wales as their summer residence, that that colony then embraced both Victoria and Queensland.

The SECRETARY mentioned that Mr. Legge, who was an enthusiast in ornithology, was very anxious that the Museum should have a complete collection of our bird skins, and read the following extract from a private note :—“The object of this collection is to afford a source of instruction to those who wish to study the ornithology of the island. Skins are quite useless for this purpose if the colour of eye, bill, and feet, and date of procuring, are not noted and recorded on the label.”

Mr. MORTON ALLPORT read a paper entitled “Some further notes on the introduction of the Salmon into Tasmanian Waters.”

The CHAIRMAN remarked, from the figures given by Mr. Allport, it would appear in case of a grilse being caught, that the chances were eighty to three that it was a true salmon, and not a sea trout (*S. trutta*).

Mr. SWAN suggested it might be advisable to write to Dr. Günther requesting him to send us a Salmon preserved in spirits so that we might have a perfectly reliable specimen with which to compare fish caught in our river. Mr. Allport mentioned he was about writing by the outgoing mail to Mr. Youl on this subject, and he had no doubt Mr. Youl would be able to arrange so as to have a fish sent out without delay.

On the motion of Mr. SWAN, seconded by Mr. BARNARD, the thanks of the meeting were accorded to Mr. Allport, Mr. Legge, and the donors of presentations, especially to Mr. Atkinson for his very beautiful collection of Queensland bird skins.

The meeting then terminated.