

JUNE, 1874.

The usual monthly evening meeting was held on Tuesday, the 9th June, J. Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

The following new members were balloted for, and declared duly elected, viz., E. Shoobridge, Esq., E. H. Butler, Esq., and Miss Cowle.

The SECRETARY submitted the usual returns for the months of April and May, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum, April 1074, May 839.
2. Visitors to Garden, April 3472, May 3014.
3. Plants and seeds received at Gardens during April.
4. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Tables—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Tables for April and May.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto ditto.
3. Swansea, from Dr. Story.—Ditto February and March.
4. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq.—Ditto for December 1873, and January and February 1874.

5. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq.—Ditto for January.

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

1. From Mr. S. H. Wintle.—A collection of mineral specimens from Mount Bischoff and Mount Ramsay ; also a specimen of crystallized Carboniferous Limestone, from the back of Mount Nicholas.
- [Accompanying these presentations were two explanatory notes from the donor.]
2. From Mr. J. Barwick.—An Albino variety of the common Opossum.
 3. From Mr. Weeding, Oatlands.—A Native Devil. (*Sarcophilus ursinus*.)
 4. From Mr. Cox.—An Albino variety of the Quail.
- [Another bird of a perfectly black colour was shot from the same covey, but very unfortunately was not sent to the Museum.]
5. From Mr. B. Sarsfield.—A Kingfisher. (*Aleyone azurea*.)
 6. From Mr. Laughton.—Samples of an umberlike substance, occurring in great quantities at Cascades. (With a note.)
 7. From Mr. Calder.—A specimen of lithographic stone, from Bruni Island, with a drawing and an impression taken from it. (With a note.)
 8. Specimen of a long thread-like worm, probably a species of *Gordius*, found three feet from the surface in digging a drain in moist ground, at the Horse-shoe Bend, Jerusalem Road.
- [This specimen, which was living when received, measured 2ft. 3in. in length, its thickness being about equal to that of fine whipcord.]
9. From Mr. C. H. Hall.—Sample of tin ore from the Mount Bischoff Tin Company's ground.
 10. From the Hon. John Lord, Esq., M.L.C.—A fine sample of angora goat hair, from animals bred in the colony.
 11. From Dr. Agnew—A series of eleven diagrams of natural history, mounted on rollers ; Gould's "Handbook of Australian Birds," 2 vols., bound ; Lyell's "Elements of Geology," 1 vol., bound.
 12. From L. R. Castray, Esq.—A specimen of dolomite from the Government Quarry, Park-street.
 13. From Lady Dry.—Two fossil *Echinodermata* and three specimens of nummulitic limestone from Egypt.

[The Secretary mentioned that Lady Dry had herself picked up these beautiful specimens at the base of the Great Pyramid, and had forwarded them direct from Malta.]

14. From Mr. J. Bidencope.—21 silver, and 21 copper coins, 2 American "Greenbacks."
15. Head of a Parasitic Worm (*Scolex* of *Tetrarhynchus*) found in the Flathead, and mounted for the microscope by Mr. H. Button, of Launceston. The Secretary, after remarking that this specimen had been given him for presentation a few days previously by Mr. Stephens, proceeded to read some remarks upon it, from a Launceston paper, by Mr. Button and Mr. Harrop. (The object itself was placed under a microscope on the table for observation.)
16. From Mr. W. E. Shoobridge, Bushy Park.—Three stone implements of the aborigines. One of these is a remarkably fine specimen. They were found on the Bushy Park estate, about 20 inches below the surface of the ground.
17. From the Rev. E. P. Adams, Deloraine.—A Parasitic Fly. Habitat unknown.

The SECRETARY read a letter from F. W. Hutton, Esq., the Curator of the Otago Museum, New Zealand, offering a skeleton of *Dinornis elephantopus* in exchange for some of our mammals and birds. [A specimen of this species of "Moa" would be of such value to the Museum, and of such general interest, that residents in the country, whether members of the Society or otherwise, are earnestly requested, if they have it in their power, to forward to the Museum some of the animals required, such as native tigers, devils, kangaroos, wallabies, opossums, kangaroo rats, bandicoots, birds, &c., &c., &c.]

A letter from C. Gould, Esq., F.G.S., enclosing the following from Dr. Günther, was read :—

"British Museum, Zoological Department,

"C. Gould, Esq.

"March 6th, 1874.

"My Dear Sir,—What you told me the other day about a Seal being found in an inland freshwater lake of Tasmania, has interested me very much. I trust you will succeed in obtaining specimens. It is impossible to conjecture whether the species is identical with, or different from, any of the Seals found in the sea. To settle this point satisfactorily, it would not suffice to examine the skin only of an individual; but, if possible the skins, skulls (or better all the bones) of a male, female and young one should be obtained.

"There is nothing improbable, whatever, of a Seal occurring in an inland freshwater lake in Tasmania. From the analogy of the distribution of the Faunas in the Arctic and Antarctic regions, the appears to be extremely probable. In Lake Baikal in Siberia, a Seal exists in great abundance, which is thought to be identical with the common Seal of the Northern Coasts (*Phoca vitulina*). The same species inhabits the Caspian Sea.

"A writer on Geographical Distribution of Animals has lately gone so far as to propose to travellers in Central Africa to look for Seals in the great lakes of that country; this idea, of course, is as ridiculous, as to look for coals in granite.

"I remain,

"Yours very truly,

"A. GUNTHER."

Mr. GRANT observed that some conversation had taken place at a former meeting of the Society as to the probable existence of a large animal, whether seal or otherwise, in Lake Tiberias. Since that time he had had many opportunities of making careful enquiries of people working close to the Lake, and he felt convinced that no large animal existed there. He had offered fifty pounds as a reward for the discovery of any such animal as a Seal, &c., but no one had hitherto claimed the

reward. He had no doubt that the noises heard on the Lake, and the objects which had been occasionally noticed, were due to the presence of the Musk Duck.

A paper on "Some species of Tasmanian Birds," by Lieut. W. V. Legge, R.A., F.Z.S., M.R.A.S., was read. The species described were *Pezoporus formosus*, (Swamp Parrakeet), *Stipiturus malachurus* (Emu Wren), *Lobivanellus lobatus* (Wattled Plover), *Ægialites monacha* (Hooded Dotrel), *Fulica Australis* (Australian Coote), and *Phalacrocorax melanoleucus*. (Little Cormorant.)

Mr. F. ABBOTT read a paper on the forthcoming transit of Venus, and after some conversational discussion, Mr. Grant moved the usual vote of thanks to the authors of the papers, and to the donors of presentations. He hoped Mr. Legge would at some future time have opportunities of carrying out his observations on the ornithology of Tasmania, and that he would enrich the Museum with many specimens of the birds he described so well. The vote having been carried the proceedings terminated.