

SEPTEMBER, 1874.

[Owing to the extreme inclemency of the weather no meeting was held this month.]

OCTOBER, 1874.

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

The Hon. Secretary, Dr. AGNEW, brought under notice the usual monthly returns, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum during August, 1341 ; during September, 1367.
2. Ditto to Gardens during August, 2365 ; during September, 3343.
3. Plants, &c., received at Gardens—From Mr. B. Heyne, Adelaide, 400 packets of seeds of annual and perennial plants. From Mr. W. Bull, London, 332 packets of seeds. From Mons. C. Huber, 29 packets of seeds. From the Royal Gardens, Kew, seeds of *Bambusa stricta*. From the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 43 plants. From Mr. C. F. Creswell, 70 packets of imported seeds.
4. Seeds sent from Gardens—To the Department of Agriculture, Washington, United States, 18 packets seeds. To the Queensland Acclimatisation Society, Brisbane, 50 packets seeds. To Mr. E. B. Heyne, Adelaide, 1 packet Blue Gum seed. To Mons. C. H. Huber, France, 4 ditto. To the Royal Gardens, Kew, 1 ditto. To Mr. Wm. Bull, London, 4 ditto. To the North China Branch of the Royal Asiatic Society, 6 packet gum seeds.
5. Plants supplied for the decoration of public places ; to Horton College, Ross, 108 plants. To General Hospital, Hobart Town, 55 plants. For St. George's burial ground, 30 plants.
6. Time of leafing &c., of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during August and September.
7. Books and periodicals received.
8. Presentations to Museum and Library.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Tables for August and September.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto, ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, from the Marine Board—Ditto, ditto.
4. Port Arthur, from J. Coverdale, Esq.—Ditto, ditto.
5. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq., B.A.—Printed tables for April, May and June, 1874.
7. New Zealand, from J. Hector, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.—Printed tables for Wellington, from February to August, 1874, and for various other stations from December 1873, to July 1874. Also a general Meteorological Report for New Zealand, 1873.
8. From the Meteorological Office, London.—Quarterly Weather Report, part 2, April to June, 1873.

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

1. From the Home Government. A complete Suit of steel Armour, with Arms of a Cavalier of the early part of 17th Century.

The Secretary called particular attention to this very valuable addition to the Museum, and mentioned that the Council had transmitted a special vote of thanks for it through His Excellency (as President) to the Secretary of State for the Colonies. The presentation, from the memories it called up of stirring periods of our earlier English history,

was one of extreme interest, and this interest was likely still to increase rather than diminish in the future.

- 2.—Hogg, Esq., Geelong, per J. W. Graves, Esq.—Skin and Skull of Dingo (*Canis dingo*.)
3. From Captain Dart, of the "Sapphire."—Head of Dolphin (*Coryphæna sp.*)—Jaws of Sunfish (*Orthogoriscus sp.*). A very beautiful and well prepared specimen of a Starfish (*Euryale sp.*)
4. From Capt. Hutton, Otago Museum, Dunedin, N.Z.—2 photographs of metatarsal bones and foot, with integuments, of a species of "Moa" (*Dinornis ingens*) lately found on "Knobby Ranges," Otago.
5. From Mr. D. Luckman—A wedge-tailed Eagle (*Aquila audax*.)
6. From Mr. Noah Chilvers—A singular Crustacean (*Phyllosoma sp.*), washed on to the deck of a ship off Adelaide.

[This remarkable crustacean, which is perfectly transparent throughout its entire system, was mounted on a slide for preservation and microscopical purposes. By some naturalists it is supposed to be the immature form of an animal which has not yet arrived at its highest stage of development.]

7. From J. K. Clarke, Esq.—Specimens of Quartz penetrated by crystals of Rutile, from Queensland.

[The Secretary requested the attention of the meeting to these beautiful and peculiar crystal, and at the same time read a description of it from Dana's Mineralogy.]

8. From Mr. R. M. Johnston—Three Microscopical slides of Fossil Woods, from Launceston.
9. From Mr. S. H. Wintle—Specimen of Granite from Golden Fleece Rivulet, East Coast of Tasmania. Mr. Wintle also sent for exhibition a collection of gem stones, consisting, according to the exhibitor, "of Diamonds, Oriental Rubies, Sapphires, Zircons, and Spinel, washed from the stanniferous drift of the Golden Fleece Rivulet."
10. From the Rev. A. N. Mason, Evandale—56 ancient Roman Coins. Mr. Mason states in a note that these coins "were given to me by a gentleman, a Professor in the so-called College or Public School at Trier, on the Moselle. He assured me they were genuine, having been found by the scholars at different times and brought to him."
11. From Mr. S. J. Baynton—Ferruginous deposit from a spring at Kingston. Salts procured by evaporation from the water of the same spring.
12. From H. M. Hull, Esq.—Specimen of Echinus.
13. From Mr. A. Shadwick, New Town—A pouched Lamprey, from Jerusalem.
14. From Mr. John Watson, Muddy Plains, per Mr. Graves—Nest of Musk Duck, with Egg.

Mr. Allport remarked that these nests were not frequently found. Being built close to the water, the duck, when disturbed, was able to plunge at once beneath the surface, and, by diving, escape accurate observation. As the Platypus takes the water in an exactly similar manner, it thus happened that the duck was frequently mistaken for it. Therefore, when eggs were found in the nest, it was naturally supposed they were those of the Platypus, and thus arose the very common, but utterly erroneously belief, that this animal was oviparous.

15. From Mr. R. M. Johnston—A Microscopical Slide shewing spore cases from *Tasmanite*.

[A very interesting specimen as showing clearly one at least of the constituents of the somewhat peculiar deposit of which it forms a part. It was exhibited under the microscope for the observation of the meeting.

16. From Mr. Luckman, Sorell—Two specimens of the Fan-tailed Cuckoo (*Cacomantis flabelliformis*).

Books Presented.

1. From Jas. Hector, Esq., M.D., F.R.S.—Report of Colonial Museum and Laboratory, Wellington, New Zealand.
2. From the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester—Memoirs of the Society, Vol. 4. Proceedings, vols. 8 to 12, 1869—1873.
3. From the Zoological Society of Philadelphia, second annual report.
4. From the Academy of Natural Sciences, Philadelphia—Proceedings, parts 1, 2, 3.
5. From Dr. J. Hector, F.R.S.—Proceedings of New Zealand Institute, Vol. 6.

His Lordship, the Chairman, read a paper on "The Law of Storms." Conversation followed. Amongst other matters which were discussed, particular interest was expressed in the fact of Cyclones north and south of the Equator revolving in opposite directions. The general feeling appeared to be that although some very ingenious theories had been offered, no explanation of the phenomenon in every respect satisfactory had yet been arrived at.

Mr. NAPIER, after bringing under notice the circumstance that the Gardens were closed at an hour (6 p.m.) when many persons would like to visit them, begged to know if any means could be adopted for keeping them open a little later.

The SECRETARY replied that the question of keeping the Gardens open for longer hours than at present was to a great extent a mere matter of money, and it was well known to all the Fellows that the means at the disposal of the Society were so limited that any action entailing further outlay would probably be impossible. He would, however, be happy to bring the matter under the consideration of the Council at the next meeting.

Mr. P. T. SMITH begged to ask if it was within the sphere of the Society's action to do anything for the Domain. Here were large public grounds set apart for the necessary recreation and health of the inhabitants, left in a perfectly disgraceful condition, and a spot which, by the exercise of taste and skill, might be made equal to anything of the kind in the world, was utterly neglected. It was in the highest degree discreditable to all concerned.

The SECRETARY replied that, by a very singular coincidence, the same question had been brought under the notice of the Council that afternoon, and some propositions in reference thereto were about to be forwarded to Government. He had no doubt some action would be taken in the matter forthwith.

Mr. STEPHENS observed this was a subject in which he took a very lively interest, and made some remarks as to the proper method of proceeding, pointing out that great care and skill would be required in carrying on efficiently, and under a well considered system, the various works necessary for the undertaking.

The BISHOP expressed his warm concurrence with everything which had been said as to the contemplated improvements. At present the innumerable beauties of the Domain were almost altogether lost, yet he knew of no locality anywhere for which Nature had done so much, and which would better repay a proper expenditure of skill and taste.

A vote of thanks was accorded to His Lordship for his paper, and a similar vote to the donors of presentations, terminated the proceedings.