

JULY, 1874.

The monthly meeting of the Society was held on the 14th July, T. Stephens, Esq., M. A., in the chair.

The following returns were brought under notice by the Secretary :—

1. Visitors to Museum during June, 1223.
2. Ditto to Gardens, ditto, 2108.
3. Plants, &c. received at Gardens.—From Mr. W. Ball, London, 11 packets of seeds of Coniferæ.—From Captain W. Willet, 115 packets of seeds.—From Baron von Mueller, Melbourne, 103 packets seeds.
4. Plants and seeds sent from Society's Gardens during June.—To Mr. Brunning, Melbourne, one case assorted plants and seeds ; 26 plants 16 packets seeds.—To Melbourne Botanic Gardens, 6 varieties of plants and 22 packets seeds. For the Sandy Bay Cemetery, 230 plants.—For the Church grounds, Evandale, 52 plants.
5. Time of leafing, &c., of a few standard plants in Society's Gardens, during June.
6. Books and Periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum and Library.

Meteorological Tables.

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbot, Esq., table for June.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., ditto.
3. Port Arthur, from J. Coverdale, Esq., ditto May and June.
4. Mount Nelson, from Marine Board, tables from January to June, 1874.
5. Sydney, from the Government Observatory, ditto February and March.
6. Melbourne, from R. J. L. Ellery, Esq., ditto March.

The presentations were as follows :—

1. From Lieut. W. V. Legge, R.A.—20 prepared skins of Tasmanian Birds, as the commencement of a type collection. Sample of a peculiar substance from the heart of a decayed Peppermint Tree. (*Eucalyptus amygdalina*), with a note.
2. From Mr. G. Richardson—1 Half Dollar, and 7 copper coins.
3. From Mr. C. H. Hall—A Lizard and a large Centipede, from the North Island, New Zealand.
4. From Mrs. Willett—Pebbles from the Diamond Fields, Cape of Good Hope.
5. From Mr. R. Thorpe—Sample of Gold from Port Cygnet, procured by himself from a blind creek. [The donor states that small portions of gold are found in various localities in the district, in the beds of creek and river courses.]
6. From Mr. W. Sharland—A species of Cicada, from New Norfolk, caught at night, in the month of May. A similar specimen was captured in the same place in May of last year. Specimen of a mineral substance (Obsidian ?) from Hamilton.
7. From Mr. S. J. Baynton—Sample of Pipeclay from North West Bay. Chrysalis cases of various moths. Specimen of Obsidian, &c., from Brown's River.
8. From Mr. Bellinger, Glenorchy—A collared Sparrow Hawk (*Accipiter torquatus*.)
9. From Mr. Blythe, Honeywood—A Platypus.
10. From Mr. Lade, St. Mary's—A chestnut faced Owl (*Strix castanops*.)
11. From T. Cruttenden, Esq.—Jamieson's Mineralogy, 3 vols., bound.
12. From Mr. Kearney, New Town.—Curious abnormal growth (fasciation) of native box (*Bursaria spinosa*).

13. From W. Archer, Esq., F.L.S.—“Owen's Odontography.” 2 vols., 4to (text and atlas), bound half Russia, cloth sides.

The CHAIRMAN referred to the discovery of Trilobites and other Silurian fossils, which he had reported to the Royal Society in July, 1873, and read extracts from letters of the Rev. W. B. Clarke, to whom he had sent specimens, and who had forwarded them to England and America for examination. Both Mr. Etheridge and Mr. Lesquereux (of Columbus, Ohio, U.S.) had identified the *genera* of *Phacops*, *Ogygia*, *Calymene*, and *Conocephalites*, and considered the rock to be the equivalent of the Potsdam sandstone, and Professor Dana recommended that the formation be worked out. He (Mr. Stephens) remarked that, besides the Trilobites, he had detected an *Orthis*, an *Euomphalus*, and some other forms which could not yet be identified, and regretted that he had had no leisure during the past year for even the careful examination of the rock specimens which had been sent him from the Mersey district. The Chairman also laid before the meeting a section, kindly furnished by Mr. Hainsworth, of a coal shaft, recently sunk at the Don, through the marine limestone, full of Palæozoic fossils, and resting conformably on coal measures, in which a 20in. seam of excellent quality is now being worked. This, he remarked, was nothing new to several of the Fellows, as the relative position of the two formations had been previously pretty well known through circumstantial evidence; but as this was the first time that the proof had been exhibited in an unmistakable form, he thought it desirable to have the fact placed on record.

A short discussion followed on the connection between the flora and fauna of the coal measures of New South Wales.

Mr. M. ALLPORT produced specimens of Blue Gum and Jarrah Wood, presented by Mr. John Watson,—well known as a good judge of timber—which had been sunk close to the wharf; and other specimens of Jarrah, furnished by Messrs. Belbin and Dowdell, which had been sunk further down the channel about two years ago, for the purpose of testing their respective capabilities of withstanding the action of the Teredo. In the case of the specimens sunk near the wharf, the Blue Gum was seen to have suffered severely, while the Jarrah was scarcely touched. On comparing the portions sunk down the channel, however, it was evident that the Jarrah indicated no peculiar immunity from the worm, as the specimens were much riddled. At the wharf, it was to be recollected, the water is not so salt as in the channel, and this might account for the Jarrah escaping in this locality, as any admixture with fresh water weakens the action of the worm. Further up the river towards the brackish water, timber never suffers from the Teredo. Mr. Watson suggested that it was scarcely a fair test to put down wood which had been cut and exposed to the weather for a lengthened period. In this case the natural juices of the timber would be dissipated, and if these were the active principles which enabled the wood to withstand the worm, of course their absence was fatal. If this theory be correct, it seems clear that perfectly fresh wood should be used for piles. In the experiment above alluded to the blue gum was known to be well seasoned, and was, therefore, perhaps, unfairly tested, and the same may have been the case with those specimens of the Jarrah which were attacked.

The Rev. J. E. TENNISON WOODS, F.G.S., F.R.G.S., &c., &c., read a long, able, and highly interesting paper on the “Physical and Zoological relations between Australia and Tasmania.”

After some discussion, a special vote of thanks was given to the Rev. J. E. T. Woods; also thanks to the donors of presentations, especially to Lieut. Legge, for his contribution of native bird skins.

The proceedings then terminated.