

JULY, 1875.

The monthly evening meeting of the society was held on Tuesday, 13th July. A large number of Fellows were present; His Excellency the Governor in the chair.

J. K. Clark, Esq., who had previously been nominated by the Council, was ballotted for and declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) brought under notice the following returns, etc., for the past month :—

1. Visitors to Museum, 1010.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 2006.
3. Plants received at Society's Gardens—From His Excellency, F. A. Weld, Esq., 15 packets seeds of Coniferæ; 3 ditto (various). From Mr. Geo. Brunning, St. Kilda, Melbourne, 80 plants. From A. Simson, Esq., plants of *Todea barbara* and *Dicksonia dubia*, from the vicinity of George's Bay. From Rev. W. W. Spicer, plants of various Sedums.
4. Plants and Seeds sent from Gardens—To Mr. G. Brunning, St. Kilda, 1 case plants (various). To Royal Gardens, Kew, 1 packet seed of Waratah (*Telopea truncata*). To Mr. Wm. Bull, London, 1 packet ditto.
5. Plants supplied for decoration of public places—To Brickfields Depôt, 60 plants. To Memorial Church, Elizabeth-street, 30 plants. To the Cornelian Bay Cemetery, 198 plants. For Government House grounds, 20 plants.
6. Time of leafing, flowering, etc., of a few standard plants in Society's Gardens during June.
7. Book and periodicals received.
8. Presentations to Museum and library.

Meteorological Tables :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table and summary for June.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, from the Hobart Town Marine Board.—Ditto.
4. Swan Island, from Ditto.—Tables for April and May.
5. Port Arthur, from J. Coverdale, Esq.—Table for May.
6. From Government Observatory, Melbourne.—Printed tables for January.
7. Wellington, New Zealand, from Dr. Hector.—Tables for February, March, and April. Abstracts of observations from various stations in New Zealand, for January, February, and March.
8. Sydney, from Government Observer.—Printed Tables for January, February, and March.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From His Excellency the Governor.—Twenty-four named specimens of wood from Western Australia, squared and polished. A Japanese mirror, in case. Tusks and ear-bones of Dugong (*Halicore dugong*).
2. From Master J. C. Young.—Two mats from Fiji, originally belonging to King Thakobau. A basket made by a Fijian Chief. The first copy of the earliest newspaper struck off in Fiji. An East Indian hunting knife. Shells (*Littorina sp.*) from Great Barrier Reef.
3. From Mr. Edwin Luckman, Sorell.—An Albino Opossum (*Phalangista fuliginosa*). Two Brush Wattle Birds (*Anthochaera mellivora*). Three specimens of the White-fronted Epthianura (*Epthianura albifrons*).
4. From R. C. Read, Esq.—Two specimens of *Antichinus alipes*.

5. From Mr. R. Thorne, junr., Forcett. — A Tippet Grobe (*Podiceps Australis*).
6. From Mr. Weeding, Oatlands. — A Tiger Cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*).
Two Native Cats (*Dasyurus viverrinus*).
7. From Dr. Huston, New Norfolk. — An Opossum mouse (*Dromicia gliriformis*).
8. From Master W. E. Calder. — A beautiful specimen of a fossil shell (*Spirifera bisulcata*) silicified, showing the spiracles.
9. From Dr. E. S. Hall, *pro* Mr. Hissey. — Minute Shells taken from the stomach of a mullet.
10. From Mr. J. W. Graves. — A fossil shell (*Pacchydromus sacculus*, McCoy), from limestone beds, Bridgewater.
11. From Mr. E. L. Stanfield. — Two Native Cats (*Dasyurus viverrinus*).

The SECRETARY requested special attention to the numerous presentations of books before the meeting from learned bodies with which the Royal Society of Tasmania makes exchanges. These were as follows:—

1. From the British Museum. — Catalogue of Birds, Vol. 1; Hand List of Seals, etc. Guide to Exhibition Rooms, 1874.
2. From the Royal Academy of Sciences, Munich. — Publications of the Academy, 1872-3 and 4.
3. From the Asiatic Society. — Journal of the Society, vol. 7, part I, 1874.
4. From the Royal Geographical Society. — Journal of Society, vol. 43 (1873) bound.
5. From the Zoological Society, London. — Proceedings of Society, part. 3, 1873; parts 1, 2, 3, 1874.
6. From the Royal Astronomical Society. — Memoirs of the Society, vol. 40, 1874-5.
7. From the Geological Society, London. — Quarterly Journal, Nos. 118 and 120. List for 1874.
8. From the Linnean Society. — Journal of Society, vol. 14, Nos. 75, 76, 77 (*Botany*); vol. 12, No. 58 (*Zoology*). List for 1874. Proceedings 1873-4. Additions to Library.
9. From the Government of India. — Memoirs of Geological Survey of India, vol. 10, part 2; vol. 11, part 1. "Palaeontologia Indica," vol. 1, part 1; ("Fauna of the fluviatile deposits") series 10, 1. Records of Geological Survey of India, vol. 7, parts 1, 2, 3, 4.
10. From the Government of Victoria. — "Prodromus of Palaeontology of Victoria," by Professor McCoy, Decades 1 and 2. Report of Chief Inspector of Mines for 1874. Do. of Mining Surveyors for first quarter of 1875. Mineral Statistics of Victoria for 1874.

The SECRETARY reported that soon after the last evening meeting the Garden Committee, with the Honorable the Colonial Secretary and Minister of Lands and Works, had proceeded to inspect a portion of the Domain. They were there met by His Excellency who kindly accompanied them over the various improvements which had recently been effected in the enclosure round Government House. Afterwards the committee carefully inspected that portion of the Domain which lies beyond the Gardens. Here great numbers of trees, some very unsightly, others in the last stage of decay were noticed, none of which could be either useful or ornamental. After some discussion it was thought best to request the Governor, in conjunction with Mr. Abbott, to mark such trees as it was desirable to remove. The Committee were led to adopt this course on considering the practical interest which His Excellency had shown in the matter, and they were also influenced by the evidence of his skill and taste which their recent visit to the Government House grounds had afforded. His

Excellency when applied to, at once took action at the earliest possible date, and in conjunction with Mr. Abbott had marked a number of trees which would soon be removed by means of labour promised by Government.

HIS EXCELLENCY remarked that agreeably to the request of the Domain Committee he had carefully gone over that portion of the Domain lying between the Gardens and Cornelian Bay, and he had also, to some extent, inspected it generally. In making his observations he had been greatly assisted by Mr. Abbott, to whom he was indebted for many valuable hints. He had marked some trees, which as a beginning, he had no doubt, ought to be removed. Some of these were ugly and deformed in themselves, whilst others obscured the view of finer trees. Many again were so nearly dead already, that if not quickly removed they would soon fall of themselves. He expected that the removal of these trees would open up some pretty vistas looking both up and across the river. Afterwards it could be determined by careful observation if any further clearing was advisable. But the removal of trees was not the only matter which should engage their attention. It was of great importance, even at the present early period, that planting operations should be considered and that some definite plan of operations should be adopted. He might, perhaps, be allowed to suggest, that planting might advantageously be commenced somewhat outside of the Domain along the border of the creek near the bridge in Macquarie-street. This, however, was rather a matter for the consideration of the Town Council. In a sanitary point of view the blue gum might be of great benefit to this locality. Then the railway works might be enclosed by ornamental trees. Some appropriate and pretty trees such as *Pinus maritima*, etc., might be planted behind the Battery and would look well from the harbour. The sides of the railway also at certain points would furnish good sites for planting. Coming round by Government House we find the large and unsightly quarry. This might be made very ornamental at a very trifling expense by judicious planting, etc. Beyond this, the ravine above the pond might easily be converted as suggested by Mr. Abbott, into a pretty fern tree valley. Round the domain and at its upper entrance he had found a stone-crusher at work, and the engine was fed with firewood from trees in the vicinity. In cutting down trees for this purpose great care should be taken that those only should be removed which could be advantageously spared from the locality.

Mr. GRANT had no doubt that the planting on the borders of the creek as suggested by His Excellency would be both beneficial and ornamental. The planting of the railway enclosure which had also been alluded to by the President would be undertaken by the Railway Company. (Applause.) At many other points along the railway cuttings in the domain there was plenty of soil for the growth of trees of considerable size.

Mr. STEPHENS directed the attention of the meeting to specimens of the *strata* traversed by the prospecting shaft at Spring Bay, which had been forwarded by Mr. Robinson of Triabunna. For the first 23 feet the sinking appeared to have been through surface soil and a yellowish sandstone, succeeded by a grey sandstone charged with thin streaks and irregular bands of carbonaceous matter, and occasional nodular patches of an indurated fire-clay; the whole extending to a depth of about 70 feet. Though the evidence up to the present time was of a somewhat negative character, it was quite as favourable as could be expected, where nothing is accurately known of the order or thick-

ness of the various members of the carboniferous series. Had section boxes, or any kind of specimens, been preserved to show the results obtained in the other shafts by which these coal measures have already been proved to a depth of at least 400 feet, it might now have been possible either to assure the promoters of speedy success, or to point out a more eligible locality. He (Mr. Stephens) hoped that they would persevere in their spirited undertaking, and that all persons engaged in such works would remember the importance of preserving an exact record of the results of sinking or boring in any part of the colony, with specimens of the different rocks which are met with.

The SECRETARY read a paper, contributed by Dr. G. Bennett, F. L. S., F.Z.S. of Sydney, a corresponding member of the society, "On the Frilled Lizard (*Chlamydosaurus Kingii*), of Queensland." A paper by the same learned author on the beautiful Sponge from the Philippine Islands, known as "Venus' Flower Basket" (*Euplectella aspergillum*), was also read by the Secretary.

This paper was listened to with marked attention, and specimens of the silicious skeletons of the *Euplectella*—than which there is, perhaps, nothing more exquisite in the whole domain of natural history—were examined with the greatest interest by all present. For these fine specimens the society, as noticed at the last meeting, is indebted to the liberality of Dr. Bennett.

M. ALLPORT, Esq., F.L.S., F.Z.S., etc., etc., read a paper entitled "Some Further Notes on the Salmon Experiment."

Mr. RULE observed, although he could not speak scientifically as to the distinctions between the grilse and salmon trout, he could do so from a practical point of view. He had been told by experienced fishermen—and from his own long experience, he knew it to be a fact—that the grilse and trout could be readily distinguished by simply grasping them a little above the tail, and then lifting them up. The trout could only with difficulty be held in this position, owing to the thickness of the flesh at the point grasped; whereas, the thinner structure of the salmon affords a firm hold. After applying this test with others to our fish, he had no doubt whatever it was a true salmon.

Mr. STEPHENS proposed that the "thanks of the meeting should be given to Dr. Bennett for his very interesting papers, and, also to Mr. Allport for his able and vigorous championship of the Tasmanian salmon." Carried by acclamation.

Mr. BARNARD then moved "that a vote of thanks be accorded to the donors of the various presentations to the Museum and Library."

Mr. STEPHENS, in seconding the motion, called attention to the large collection of West Australian woods, presented by his Excellency, whom he was sure they were all glad to see presiding at the meetings of the society. (Hear, hear.)

The vote having passed, the President left the chair.