

AUGUST, 1876.

The usual monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 8th August; His Excellency the Governor, President, in the chair.

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

1. Number of visitors to Museum, 2,368.
2. Ditto ditto Gardens, 3,704.
3. Plants and seeds sent from Botanic Gardens :—To the Botanic Gardens, Christchurch, New Zealand, 43 plants; to Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, one case of plants and seeds.
4. Plants supplied to public places :—To church grounds, Avoca, 50 plants; to Horton College, Ross, 100 plants; to Congregational Church, Richmond, 36 plants.
5. Time of leafing, flowering, etc., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during the month.
6. Books and periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table and abstract for July.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto.
3. From the Marine Board—Tables from Brunni Island for April, May, and June; Mount Nelson, ditto for July.
4. Port Arthur, from Dr. Coverdale—Ditto.
5. Sydney, from H. C. Russell, Esq., B.A.—Printed tables for April.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Miss Gulliver—Two prepared skins of the Pied Egret (*Herodias picata*); two ditto of the Green Pygmy Goose (*Nettapus pulchellus*); one of Pink-eyed Duck (*Malacorhynchus membranaceus*); one of Little Turtle Dove (*Stictopelia cucullata*).
2. From Mr. R. Savage—A Grey Flying Squirrel (*Belideus sciurus*) from River Shannon, Tasmania.
3. Curious horny growth from the ear of a sheep.
4. A specimen of the Cinereous Crow-Shrike (*Cracticus cinereus*), shot in the act of killing a small bird.
5. From Master E. Hood—A specimen of the Gulf-Weed (*Sargassum*), procured on the voyage to England.

The Rev. J. E. TENISON-WOODS then read a paper on a new species of *Ampullaria* with some observations on Swainson's genus *Thelidomus*, of which a species occurs in Tasmania, the animal being unknown. He also laid on the table descriptions of several new species of Tasmanian Marine Shells, mostly from the collection of Mr. Ronald Gunn, who had kindly presented them to the Society, and most liberally placed all his collection at his (Mr. Wood's) disposal for description. Some species had been furnished by Mr. Augustus Simson from George's Bay. Mr. W. F. Petterd had also shown a considerable number of decidedly new species, the result of his own careful collection during many years. Mr. Woods could not, however, undertake to describe these unless type specimens were placed in the Museum for future reference, as it was not fair to science to describe species without giving future naturalists an opportunity of verifying, correcting, or extending the observations.

The reverend gentleman then made some remarks with reference to the *viva voce* introduction which he gave to Mr. R. M. Johnston's paper at the previous meeting, and subsequently, at the request of the Society, on the motion of His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania, promised to commit them to writing for the purpose of publication in the Transactions.

Discussion followed.

The BISHOP asked whether the Gault formation was found in Australia,

and if the Sauroid fishes were such as *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus*. He regretted that he could not be present during the former lecture as well as on this occasion, but should like to add another question. He remembered that geologists of a few years' back had called attention to the persistence in Australia of secondary forms such as *Trigonice* and *Terebratulæ*, and would wish to know whether these resemblances had been increased or lessened by subsequent investigations?

The Rev. J. E. TENISON-WOODS said that he was not aware of the Gault having been found in Australia; but both *Ichthyosaurus* and *Plesiosaurus* had, but of new species, showing how widely the genera had formerly extended. He did not think that the resemblance between Australia and the Mesozoic had increased with a more extended study of its natural history, and, taking them altogether, they were not very strong, it must be admitted, and confined to isolated instances subject to no apparent rule.

Mr. STEPHENS bore testimony to the cretaceous character of the formations around the Gulf of Carpentaria. He himself had seen fossils, such as Belemnites, Inoceramus, etc., which, he was informed, might be gathered in great quantities from the surface. He was quite sure that the only reason why they were not better known was the difficulty of transport, as every fossil had to be brought down many hundred miles on horseback.

HIS EXCELLENCY said that in New Zealand extensive Mesozoic formations had been discovered, which were very similar in every respect to contemporary formations of Europe. Many years ago, when out exploring, he had come upon fossiliferous cliffs, which had at once attracted his attention as being so like the blue Lias clays which he had known almost from his childhood in Lyme Regis, and other places in Dorsetshire. Since then the beds had been examined, and determined to be true equivalents of the Lias, and the usual Ichthyosauroids of such formations had been found. The resemblance between the two deposits must have been very close when it had struck his unpractised eye, for at that time he had given scarcely any attention to the subject.

The SECRETARY proposed that on this occasion a special vote of thanks should be accorded to the Rev. Julian Tenison-Woods, not only for the interesting matter he had just brought under their notice, but also for the invaluable work he had done in the cause of the Natural History of Tasmania since they had the honour of having him as a working member. The results of this work would appear in the Transactions, but he (the Secretary) had had such opportunities of observing the vast amount of time and labour it had cost, that he felt the Society was under the deepest obligations for it. It was, therefore, with feelings of the greatest pain he had just learned that Mr. Woods was soon about to leave Tasmania. He was sure they would all feel that the Society could sustain no severer loss. They would greatly miss in the future those learned, lucid, and eloquent addresses with which Mr. Woods had illustrated so many subjects, and as to which it might truly be said,—“*Nullum quod tetigit non ornavit.*” He did not know if the reverend father was ever likely again to visit Tasmania, but if such should be the case he (the Secretary) could certainly say that from no portion of the community would he receive a warmer welcome than from the members of the Royal Society. (Applause.)

The BISHOP cordially seconded the motion, and observed as to the remark by Mr. Woods, that he had refused to describe some new Tasmanian shells which had recently been shown him because the owner could not afford to deposit them in the Museum where his descriptions could if required be tested by future naturalists, that he felt this remark was entirely due to that modesty which was characteristic of the true student of science. Descriptions from the pen of Mr. Woods, however, had nothing to fear from criticism. At the same time he hoped the specimens referred

to might, if possible, be purchased in order that the Society might have the advantage of having them properly described and named, and the list of Tasmanian shells thus rendered as complete as possible to date.

The Rev. J. E. TENISON-WOODS, in returning thanks, remarked it had given him great pleasure to do what little he had done for the Natural History of Tasmania. It was pleasant, however, for every one to find his work appreciated, and he must say he had always found that the Royal Society had recognised in the kindest spirit whatever he had been able to accomplish. The library of the Society had been of the greatest assistance to him, and he was most happy in being able to congratulate the Fellows on the possession of the best and most extensive collection of scientific works in the Australian colonies. He was also glad to have the opportunity of thanking the officers of the Society for their unvarying courtesy, and his thanks were especially due to their Curator, Mr. Roblin, to whom he had been frequently indebted for assistance of the most valuable character always most willingly rendered. (Applause.)

A vote of thanks to the donors of presentations closed the proceedings.