

NOVEMBER, 1876.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held at the Museum on Monday, the 13th Nov. His Excellency the Governor, in the chair.

Messrs. Edward J. Freeman and John Sharp, who had previously been nominated by the Council, were balloted for and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society.

The Secretary brought under notice the usual monthly returns, viz.,

1. Number of visitors to Museum during October, total, 1709.
2. Ditto, to Gardens, 3598.
3. Seeds introduced into Gardens.
4. Time of leafing etc., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during October.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Returns—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., Table and Summary for October, Results of 35 years observations (1841 to 1875 inclusive), with table showing excess of spontaneous evaporation over rainfall for ten years (1866 to 1875.)
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq., Abstract table for October.
3. Port Arthur, from Dr. Coverdale. Table for October.
4. From the Hobart Town Marine Board, the following tables :—Mount Nelson, for October ; Swan Island, for September ; Goose Island, for September ; King's Island, for July, August, and September.

In reference to the gales which prevailed on the Australian coasts during September, the following remarks, by Mr. E. N. Spong, Superintendent of the King's I. Lighthouse, appear in the table furnished by him for that month :—“ These gales had all the characteristics of a cyclone, blowing with great fury, backing 16 points, then calm, and deluge of rain ; sudden fall of barometer from 29·16in. to 28·94in. in one hour. Then a violent gale at N.E., 10·42lb. per square foot, shifting in a few seconds to S.W., with a pressure estimated at 15·60lb. per square foot ; barometer rising to 29·12 by 9hrs. 30min. Frequent violent gusts with hail, wind backing six to eight points. Midnight, steady violent gale ; no thunder or lightning at any time. The greatest force is marked at 15·60lb. per square foot by estimation. Having no anemometer, possibly it may have been much greater. Barometer not so low since October 26th, 1863.

5. From Mr. Roblin. Abstracts and Results of Meteorological Observations, taken at the lighthouses and other coast stations in Tasmania, during five years (1870 to 1875), compiled from the monthly tables furnished by the Hobart Town Marine Board, and the Commandant, Port Arthur.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. Arthur R. Johnston, Telegraph Department, Townsville, Queensland. A net bag made by the Aboriginies of Northern Queensland.
2. From Mr. W. Free, Muddy Plains. A species of Petrel (Broad-billed Prion,—*Prion vittatus*) shot inland.
3. From L. R. Castray, Esq. A very large egg laid by a half-bred Brahma Pootra fowl. This egg weighed 5½ ounces, and had a smaller egg within it.
4. From the Rev. G. Brown, Wesleyan Missionary, Sydney. Eight spears and three clubs from New Britain and New Ireland.
5. From Mr. J. S. Roberts, Victoria, Huon. Specimen of the White-fronted Falcon (*Falco lunulatus*).

6. From Mr. A. Wilkins. Specimens of Dolomite, and Silver Ore from Mitchell's Creek, Bathurst, N. S. Wales. The donor states that this ore yields by assay gold 8 per cent., silver 30 per cent., and copper 9 per cent; the lode being 13ft. 6in. in thickness.
 7. From Mr. O'Keefe. Barnacles from bottom of steamship Mangana.
 8. From Mr. John Brazier, C.M.Z.S., Sydney. 755 specimens, comprising 227 species and varieties of shells, with list. [The Secretary requested special attention to this very liberal donation, and read some extracts from a letter by the donor which accompanied it.]
 9. From Mr. H. Gill. Sample of Tin Ore from the Star Claim, Cascade River, the first tin section found in the Upper Ringarooma District.
 10. From Mr. Castles. Sample of Tin Ore from Schouten Island.
 11. From Mr. H. Johnston. An Irish teupenny piece, 1813.
 12. From Capt. McDiarmid, brig Moa. Vertebra of a Whale. A Club from Island of Tanna.
 13. From the Rev. H. D. Atkinson. A collection of type specimens of new shells, collected by the donor at Long Bay, and described by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods. [In commenting on the value of this presentation, as type specimens, the Secretary read some remarks by the donor.]
 14. From Mr. J. Bagley, Oatlands. A Tippet Grebe (*Podiceps australis*) shot on Lake Dulverton.
 15. From J. Swan, Esq. Skin of Grey Flying Squirrel (*Belideus sciurus*).
- [Mr. SWAN remarked he had noticed this animal in localities so far apart from each other as Muddy Plains (near Launceston), the Lake Country and Avoca. Although by some observers it was thought to have been imported, he thought it was indigenous. Had it been brought to the country it would not, in so short a period, have spread so extensively from localities where it had not become too numerous for existence, and whence it had not been driven either by other animals, or by any deficiency of food or shelter.]

The Rev. W. W. SPICER read a paper on the effects of wounds on the human subject inflicted by the spur of the Platypus (*Ornithorhynchus anatinus*).

Mr. Justice DOBSON related the particulars of another case of a very similar character, the subject of which had come under his notice about twelve days after the wound was received. Even then the man was in a very prostrate condition, presenting the appearance of having passed through a very serious illness.

Dr. E. L. CROWTHER mentioned he had seen a case some months ago in which the patient was almost killed by a wound (he thought on the hand) from the spur of a game cock. The pain from the injury was most acute. The injured limb became swollen, and for the space of twenty-four hours the amount of collapse was alarming.

The SECRETARY read the following note from Mr. T. Stephens on some specimens from the shaft lately sunk for coal at Spring Bay:—"Messrs. Robinson and Carter of Spring Bay have forwarded to me a case, now in the Museum, containing a complete series of specimens from the trial shaft at Triabunna, which, when arranged in a properly constructed 'section box,' will furnish a good illustration of that portion of the coal measures which was passed through in the recent exploration. I hoped to have submitted to the Royal Society a paper on this subject and on the general geological formation of the district, but have not been able to find sufficient leisure this year for such work. If, in past times, an accurate record had been kept of each section of the coal measures that has been tested in Tasmania, it would have saved the useless expenditure of thousands of pounds." In reference to some specimens from George's Bay, Mr. Stephens adds:—"Professor Liversidge, of Sydney, one of our Corresponding Members, has

named for us some of the rarer minerals from the neighbourhood of George's Bay, which were exhibited at a former meeting of the Society, and has kindly expressed his willingness to render a like service on any future occasion. To have such assistance from one of the most competent authorities in the colonies is an advantage which will be duly appreciated by the Royal Society."

The SECRETARY brought under notice a paper entitled "Synonymy of, and Remarks upon, Tasmanian and other Shells, with their Geographical Distribution." By John Brazier, C.M.Z.S., Corr. Member, Roy. Soc. Tas.

Mr. M. ALLPORT reported that a fine grilse, no doubt a true salmon, weighing upwards of four pounds, had been captured that morning close to the wharves, a striking proof of the vast numbers which must exist in the river and harbour.

The GOVERNOR stated he had examined the fish, which was a very fine one, and, he had no doubt, was a true *Salmo salar*. Passing to a subject somewhat allied to fish, His Excellency brought under observation the net which had been presented, and on comparing it with others in the Museum, commented on the general superiority of the workmanship of those in the northern over those in the southern regions of the Continent, including also Tasmania. Towards the north also the natives appear to have a much better idea of making canoes and catamarans. Before closing his remarks, the Governor begged to take that opportunity of saying he thought the best thanks of the Society were due to one of its Fellows—Mr. Russell Young, to the Ministers, and to Parliament for the action which had recently been taken in reserving a great portion, 3,700 acres, of Mount Wellington as a people's park. In his inaugural address he had dwelt strongly on the pressing necessity which existed for some such legislation as that which had just taken place. It was quite impossible to over-rate the benefit of the Act to the city, to the colony at large, and to visitors from the other colonies, to whom the beauties of this park will always form an increasing attraction. It was pleasant also to think that such a magnificent estate was now secure for all time, not for the rich alone, but for the poor, for whom especially it must prove an incalculable boon and a highly civilising agent.

The SECRETARY brought forward the results of five additional years of meteorological observations carried on gratuitously at Hobart Town with the greatest zeal and industry by Mr. F. Abbott, compiled by Mr. Roblin, Curator of the Museum, thus completing a record extending over thirty-five consecutive years—a period probably unequalled by any other British colony. Abstract Tables and Results of Meteorological Observations taken at the Lighthouses and other Coast Stations in Tasmania during the years 1871, 2, 3, 4 and 5, compiled with much labour and care by Mr. Roblin were also submitted. The above will, as heretofore, be printed for distribution.

Mr. SWAN in proposing a vote of thanks to the donors of presentations (especially to Mr. Brazier), and to the Rev. W. W. Spicer for his interesting paper, observed, with some reference to the remarks of the Chairman, that a Committee has been appointed by Government for carrying out improvements in the Domain and that the work, as far as disposable labour would admit, would be commenced forthwith.

The SECRETARY mentioned that the Committee would have the great benefit of the advice of the Governor who had taken the greatest interest in the work and had promised to afford every practical assistance in his power.

The proceedings then terminated.