

## OCTOBER, 1876.

The usual monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, the 9th October, James Barnard, Esq., in the chair.

George Corney Westbrook, Esq., who had been previously nominated by the Council, was balloted for and declared duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

The following returns for the past month were laid before the meeting :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum, 2,006.
2. Ditto to Gardens, 4,181.
3. Plants and seeds received at and sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during September.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum and Library.

*Meteorological Tables* :—

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for September.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto.
3. Port Arthur, from Dr. Coverdale—Ditto.
4. From the Marine Board—Tables from Mt. Nelson for September ; South Bruni, ditto ; Swan Island for June, July, and August ; Goose Island for August.
5. From Government Observer, Sydney—Results of observations made in 1874, and tables for 1875.
6. From Government of New Zealand—Printed tables from January to May, 1876. Comparative table of climate for 1875, New Zealand ; Meteorological tables, January to March, 1876, Wellington, N.Z.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mrs. J. Bidenscope—Two cases of Butterflies and Moths, from India.
2. From Master L. Forrest—A case containing 33 specimens of British Butterflies and Moths.
3. From Mr. Robert M. Browne, Wellington, New Zealand—15 New Zealand and 3 Australian copper tokens.
4. From Mr. Nairn—Two black snakes (*Hoplocephalus curtus*) from Kangaroo Valley.
5. From Mr. Spencer—Sample of coal from Jerusalem.
6. From Mr. P. Feeney—Ditto from Sandfly Rivulet.
7. From Mr. T. Nichols—Ditto from Port Cygnet.
8. From Mr. P. Pearsall—A Tiger Cat (*Dasyurus maculatus*).
9. From Mr. Turner—A Musk Duck (*Biziura lobata*).
10. From James Scott, Esq., M.H.A.—An aboriginal stone implement from Mount Morriston.

[Mr. Scott considers this to be one of the best specimens of these implements which he has presented. He states that the natives held the stones with the thumb on the flat surface, the rounded side resting in the palm of the hand. In use the stone was kept turning round so as to bring different parts of its edge to bear on the work. As to the mound supposed to cover an aboriginal grave, referred to at a former meeting (August 1875), Mr. Scott reports that on digging up the spot the traces of a fire, some pieces of charcoal, and a quantity of a "greasy" kind of red clay or ochre were found, but no bones of any description.]

11. From Mr. J. Fergusson, Tinderbox Bay—A collection of shells, from Cloudy Bay, South Bruni.
12. From Miss Florence Abbott, per Rev. W. W. Spicer—A sample of "Pulu."

[Pulu, or hairs taken from the base of the fronds of tree ferns, and employed for stuffing mattresses, etc., in the Sydney Infirmary and the Hobart Town Hospital. About 2 lbs. of the hairs are required for a large

pillow, at a cost of 6d. per lb. The material lasts for many years, during which it continues sweet and clean, but at last the hairs break up and crumble into dust.]

13. From Captain W. V. Legge, R.A.—A living specimen of the white-bellied Sea Eagle, from Ceylon.

[Captain Legge states "this is a very fine immature Sea Eagle (*Halietus leucogaster*), which I beg to present to the Royal Society. It is, I consider, a bird of some interest as regards Tasmania, as it is the same species as our Fish Hawk; and will illustrate the young plumage very well. I do not think this plumage is well known in Tasmania. It will attain to its mature, white dress, next year, and it will then be interesting to naturalists to observe whether it exactly corresponds with Tasmanian adult examples in the Museum." He adds, "I presume a place for its reception could be put up in the Gardens, and that done, no difficulty will be experienced in feeding it, as it will eat offal and meat of all sorts. Might not this form a foundation for a collection of Raptores, which the Society could surely keep without much expense. Young Eagle Hawks might be got by making the wish known. Harriers (Swamp Hawk, *Circus assimilis*) I know may be procured, for I saw a beautiful specimen in the possession of a gentleman at the Hospital at Campbell Town."]

*Presentations to Library—*

1. From the United States Naval Observatory, Washington—"Astro-nomical and Meteorological observations, 1870 and 1872," 2 Vols, 4to. "Catalogue of Stars, 1845 to 1871," 1<sup>1</sup>/<sub>2</sub> Vol., 4to. "Zones of Stars observed with mural circle, 1846-1849," 1 Vol., 4to. "Ditto observed with transit instrument," 1 Vol., 4to. "Results of obser-vations, 1853-1860," 1 Vol., 4to. "On the Right Ascensions of the Equatorial Fundamental Stars," 1870, 1 Vol., 4to. "Report on Difference of Longitude between Washington and St. Louis," by Professor Harkness, 1 Vol., 4to.
2. From the Chief Signal Office, Washington—"Report of Chief Sig-nal Officer, War Department, U.S. America, for 1872," 1 Vol., 8vo. "Daily Bulletin," December, 1872, January and February, 1873, 3 Vols., 4to.
3. From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington—"Smithsonian Miscel-laneous Collections," Vol. 10. "Smithsonian Reports," 1871 and 1873, 2 Vols., 8vo.
4. From F. V. Hayden, Esq., United States Government Geologist—"Report of Geological Survey of the Territories," Vol. 6. "Cretaceous Flora," 1 Vol., 4to, "Geological and Geographical Survey of Colorado," 1873, by F. V. Hayden, 1 Vol., 8vo. "Birds of the North West," by Elliott Cones, 8vo (two copies). "Synopsis of Flora of Colorado," pamphlet, pp. 180. "Bulletin of United States, Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories," No. 2, and 2 and 3, 2nd Series, 3 pamphlets. "Lists of Elevations of portion of U. States, West of Mississippi River," 1 pamphlet. "Catalogue of Publications of U.S. Geological Survey."
5. From the Boston Society of Natural History—Memoirs of the Society, Vol. 2., part 2, No. 4; part 3, Nos. 1 to 5; part 4, No. 1 (7 parts). Proceedings of the Society, Vol. 15, parts 3 and 4; Vol. 16, parts 1 to 4; Vol. 17, parts 1 and 2, 8 parts. The "Jeffries Wyman Memorial Meeting of the Society," 1 pamphlet.
6. From the Buffalo Society of Natural Sciences--Bulletin of the Society, Vol. 1, No. 4; Vol. 2, Nos. 1 to 4 (5 parts).
7. From the Essex Institute, Salem, Massachusetts—Bulletin of Institute, Vols. 5, 6.
8. From the American Philosophical Society—Proceedings, Vol. 14, Nos. 92, 93, 94.

9. From American Academy of Arts and Sciences—Proceedings, New Series, Vol. 9. "Commemorative Notice of Louis Agassiz," by Theodore Lyman.
10. From the Anderson School of Natural History, Penikese Island—Report of Trustees, 1873.
11. From Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College—Report, '73.
12. From Board of Public Education, Pennsylvania—Report for 1874.
13. From the Howard University, Washington—Report 1875-76.
14. From the Royal Society of New South Wales—Proceedings of the Society, Vol. 9, 1875.
15. From the Adelaide Philosophical Society—Reports and Transactions 1867, 1868, 1871 and 1872. "Law in Nature" by R. D. Hanson, Esq., Chief Justice of South Australia. Papers "On the Tertiary Rocks of South Australia," by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods; "On the Geology of the South East," by Mr. Chief Justice Hanson; on the same by the Rev. J. E. Tenison Woods; "On the Uraie (arrow poison) of the Indians of British Guiana, by Dr. Schomburgk; "Explorations on West and North West Coasts of Australia," by Mr. C. A. Wilson; "On City Drainage" by Mr. J. Macgeorge, etc.

Special attention was called to the valuable presentation of books, on various scientific subjects, from the United States Government, and from the Smithsonian Institution and other learned Societies in America.

In the absence of the author, the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, F.L.S., F.G.S., Corresponding Member of the Royal Societies of New South Wales and Tasmania, and of the Linnæan Society of New South Wales, the Secretary read a paper "On a new-reversed Helix (*Helix weldii*)," discovered by Mr. W. F. Petterd on the North-West Coast, near Circular Head.

The SECRETARY also read a communication from J. E. Calder, Esq., on the language of the Aborigines of Tasmania. Accompanying this was a large and very carefully prepared compilation by Mr. Calder of all the known aboriginal words preserved by various collectors; and so arranged that each collector has the credit of all words added by him to the general stock. This great vocabulary was inspected with much interest by all present.

Mr. M. ALLPORT observed, in order to continue the history of our salmon to the latest date, that he had to report the capture of a fine grilse, weighing about three pounds, in the harbour about a fortnight ago. As it was taken in a "graball" net, the probability, or rather certainty, was that great numbers of fish were in the river. He had carefully examined this specimen, and had no doubt whatever as to its being a *salmo salar*. It had been presented to His Excellency. Previous to this capture, another fish of a similar size had been caught near the same locality, but it had not been brought under his observation.

A few days ago, however, a third salmon was taken, and on this occasion under very satisfactory circumstances. It was caught by Mr. M. Seal with the fly, about two miles above New Norfolk. Great numbers of fish were rising in all directions at the same time. In some rivers it is known that the salmon will not rise to the fly, and doubts had been expressed as to whether the Tasmanian fish would do so or not. This capture therefore is an important one for anglers, as it sets the question at rest. The fish was a fine grilse of about three pounds in weight, on its way from the salt to the fresh water.

Mr. SEAL stated that the fish was very lively and gave excellent sport, in this respect contrasting most favorably with the trout.

On the motion of Mr. SWAN, seconded by Mr. W. E. SHOBRIDGE, the thanks of the meeting were given to the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, to the donors of presentations, and specially to Mr. Calder for his valuable and carefully compiled vocabulary.

The proceedings then terminated.