

## APRIL, 1878.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, April 9, T. Stephens, Esq., M.A., F.G.S., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had previously been nominated by the council, were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society, viz., Charles G. Beddome, Esq., of Sandy Bay, and James Backhouse Walker, Esq., of Hobart Town. E. P. Ramsay, Esq., F.L.S., etc., Curator of the Australian Museum, Sydney; and the Rev. W. W. Spicer, M.A., F.R.M.S., were elected as corresponding members.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns for the past month.

1. Number of visitors to Museum, March, total, 2,420.

2. Ditto to Gardens, March, 4,462.

3. Plants and seeds received at Botanic Gardens during March:—From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux & Co., Paris—36 packets flower seeds, in collections. From Baron von. Müeller—12 packets seeds from America. From Mons. J. Verschaffelt, Ghent—One box containing rhododendrons, etc., etc., all in good condition.

4. Time of leafing, etc., of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during the month:—

5. Books and periodicals received.

6. Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorological Returns—*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for March.

2. Swan Island, and South Bruny, from the Marine Board—Tables for February; Mount Nelson ditto for March.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows:—

1. From H. M. Hull, Esq.—Fossil shell, from limestone brought from New Zealand.

2. From the Rev. J. White.—A sheet of Tapa cloth from Fiji.

3. From the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, and the Rev. H. D. Atkinson.—Type specimens of new species of Tasmanian shells.

4. From R. M. Johnston, Esq.—Fossil shells from Cape Barren and Badger Islands, Bass' Straits.

5. From Mr. G. T. Johnson.—A large spider crab, from Eagle Hawk Neck, Tasman's Peninsula.

The SECRETARY, after some remarks as to the great loss the society would sustain by the absence from their meetings of the Rev. W. W. Spicer, observed that the subject had been brought forward at last month's meeting. At that time, however, Mr. Spicer had not resigned his seat at the Council, but subsequently he had done so. A special meeting of the Council was then convened, when the following minute was agreed to, and was conveyed to Mr. Spicer before his departure:—“The Council of the Royal Society, having this day received, with great regret, the resignation of the Rev. W. W. Spicer, who is about to leave Tasmania, desire to place on record an expression of their sense of the loss the society will sustain by his departure. They feel that their best thanks are due to Mr. Spicer, not only for the large amount of special work which he has accomplished for the Museum and the society, but also for his labours generally in the cause of the natural history of the island. And, whilst thanking him for the past, the Council cannot but express a hope that in the future Mr. Spicer, as a corresponding member, will still maintain those pleasant relations which, during his stay in the colony, have existed between himself and the Royal Society.”

The following extract from Mr. Spicer's reply, showing he would

probably still be an active member of the Society, was read:—I beg you will be so good as to communicate to the Council of the Royal Society my sincere thanks for the very flattering notice they have taken of my small services in the cause of science during my residence in Tasmania. I hope I may have an opportunity, as a Corresponding Member, to contribute still to the pages of your Transactions."

A paper "On some New Tasmanian Shells" (third series) by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods was read. In the introductory remarks, the learned author observes, "The following new and very interesting species were, for the most part, collected by the Rev. H. D. Atkinson, and, with a few exceptions, at Circular Head. An accurate knowledge of that fauna has long been a desideratum, and science may be congratulated on having such an industrious and painstaking collector as Mr. Atkinson settled there. The other species are from different collectors as noted at the end of each diagnosis. The list shows the spread of the Eastern Australian coast fauna into North Tasmania—while in the new species the recognised Tasmanian molluscan facies is not materially departed from."

A paper "On certain Tertiary and Post-Tertiary deposits on Flinders, Barren, Badger, and others Islands in Bass' Straits," by R. M. Johnston, Esq., was read.

Mr. Stephens remarked that although "raised beaches" (mention of which was made in the paper) along a coast showed that land had actually risen, they afforded no proof that the process of elevation was still going on. Mr. Stephens also showed by means of a diagram how tracts of land could be swept away even by recent diversion of currents caused by artificial means, quite irrespective of any general rising or sinking of the land.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the authors of the papers, and the donors of presentations.