

## JULY, 1878.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, the 9th July, His Excellency the Governor in the chair.

L. A. Holden, Esq. and H. J. Brock, Esq., who had previously been nominated by the Council were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society.

The Honorary Secretary (Dr. Agnew), brought under notice the usual returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to the Museum, 2,414.
2. Number of visitors to Gardens, 4,503.
3. Plants received at and sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, flowering, etc., of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during June.
5. Books and periodicals received.

*Meteorology—*

1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq.—Table for June.
2. New Norfolk, from W. E. Shoobridge, Esq.—Ditto.
3. Swan Island and Mount Nelson, from the Marine Board—Tables for May and June.
4. From Mr. Roblin—Abstracts and Results of observations registered at the Lighthouses, etc., during 1877.
5. From the Government Observatory, Melbourne—Monthly Record of observations registered at the Melbourne Observatory during January and February.

HIS EXCELLENCY presented to the library a recent work by R. A. Proctor B.A., entitled "The Universe, and the Coming Transits." Also a series of nine photographs of typical examples of certain of the South African races.

THE SECRETARY read a paper by Mrs. Charles Meredith, descriptive of the form and character of several specimens of the sea *Annelida*, or "sea worms" found in the kelp at Prossers' Bay, and representative of the families of NEREIDIDÆ, SERPULIDÆ, and TEREBELLIDÆ. Generically they are to be classed under *Nereis*, *Sabella*, and *Terebella*, but it is probable that as to species they are new to science. All the species referred to in the paper were depicted by the writer in beautifully executed water-colour drawings, which were examined with great interest by the meeting.

MR. T. STEPHENS read "Notes on a visit to the Hot Spring near Southport in 1877."

HIS EXCELLENCY thought Mr. Stephens' suggestion of decomposing pyrites being the source of heat in this case, was probably correct, but he was not certain that this could apply to the hot water and mud springs in New Zealand, which extended over a very large area. These springs, which he had visited many years ago, presented some very peculiar features; for instance, an individual seated in one with water at a comfortable temperature, might hold in his hand a net containing vegetables, and, without moving, could cook them by dipping the net in a boiling spring close to him. The deposit between the springs seemed to be a sort of *tufa*, or a mixture of lime and silex. The formation of the country in the immediate vicinity, appeared to be recent, and as far as he (the Chairman) could recollect there was no rock *in situ*, though Plutonic and Metamorphic rocks existed in the neighbourhood.

THE BISHOP OF TASMANIA agreed with Mr. Stephens in thinking that the decomposition of Pyrites was quite sufficient to account for the heat of the small spring described by him, but as to the larger area of the hot-well district, with which he was familiar in England, at Bath and Clifton, where the water was derived from the New Red Sandstone, he thought such chemical action alone was scarcely sufficient to account for the vast

amount of internal heat required. The same, too, would apply in a still greater degree to New Zealand where the phenomena were on a much grander scale.

The SECRETARY remarked as to boiling springs, and similar phenomena that the Yellowstone region of North America threw all the Geysers of Iceland, and the hot water and mud springs of New Zealand, into comparative insignificance. So great were the wonders of this extraordinary region, and so vast was the scale on which they occurred, that the United States Government had wisely reserved it for all future time as a public park and a play-ground for the American Nation.

After some further discussion a vote of thanks proposed by the Bishop, to the writers of the papers, and for presentations closed the proceedings.