

JULY, 1877.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 10th July. His Excellency the Governor was in the chair.

Charles Henry Smith, Esq., Consular Agent for Italy at Launceston, who had previously been nominated by the Council, was balloted for and declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary, Dr. AGNEW, laid on the table the following returns for the past month, viz.,

1. Number of Visitors to Museum, 1,486.
2. Ditto to gardens, 3,158.
3. Plants received at gardens.—From Mr. Wm. Lamdner, Melbourne, seeds of Valonia Oak (*Quercus Ægilops*). From Baron F. von Mueller, Melbourne, three packets seeds.
4. Plants and seeds sent from Gardens :—To the Department of Agriculture, Washington, United States, 100 packets of seeds. For grounds of Cemetery, Cornelian Bay, 40 plants. For grounds of Launceston Hospital, 150 plants. For Horton College, Ross, 100 plants. For grounds of St. David's Cathedral, two plants. For grounds of Sandy Bay Cemetery, 50 plants.
5. Times of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during June.
6. Books and Periodicals received.
7. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorological Tables.—

1. Hobart Town, from Mr. F. Abbott.—Table for June.
2. New Norfolk, from Mr. W. E. Shoobridge.—Ditto.
3. Mount Nelson, table for June; Swan Island, ditto for May; Goose Island, ditto for April and May; South Bruni, ditto for May and June; Kent's Group, for April.—From the Marine Board.
4. A series of the American simultaneous meteorological observations, forwarded from the chief signal office, Washington, U.S. [In these the "simultaneous" observations taken at Hobart Town by Mr. F. Abbott appear, in the "British Series," for the first time; the Melbourne Observatory furnishing the only other record for these colonies.]

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Master Dunstan.—A specimen of the "More-pork" (*Podargus Cuvieri*), from Kangaroo Point.
2. From Mr. Hissey.—Two specimens of young of Native Devil (*Sarcophilus ursinus*) from the pouch.
3. From Mr. J. Brown.—Specimens of iron ore, etc., from Glaziers' Bay.
4. From Lieut. F. G. C. Langdon, R.N.—22 polished specimens of Fossil Wood from Jamaica. [These beautiful specimens were examined with great interest, the minute structure of the former woody tissues being brought out with peculiar distinctness.]

HIS EXCELLENCY, after referring to a former communication he had made to the Society as to the value of a new article of fodder—the pods of the *Prosopis pubescens*, or Screw Bean—laid on the table some further information on the subject by an employé at the Cinchona Plantation, Jamaica. From this it appeared that, on one occasion, when a horse had eaten a pound of the pods he was found dead on the morning of the third day afterwards, the impression being that the death was due to some poisonous property in the bean. It was, therefore, evident that as a fodder the bean should be very cautiously tried. And caution was the more necessary as it was well known in Jamaica that the pods of another species of the same genus—*Prosopis juliflora*—though "a valuable fodder," was apt, especially after rain, to produce intestinal disturbances, and in some cases death. As far as the seed which had been distributed by him was concerned, no harm

could possibly have been done, as it had quite failed (as far as he was aware) to germinate, vitality having apparently been destroyed by weevil.

The Hon. SECRETARY read a paper "On the Hobart Town Storage Reservoir," by T. Stephens, Esq., F.G.S.

The Rev. W. W. SPICER, M.A., F.R.M.S., read a paper "On Plants as Insect Destroyers."

The BISHOP OF TASMANIA, after some complimentary observations on the very practical remarks of Mr. Stephens, and the very instructive paper by the Rev. W. W. Spicer, proposed a special vote of thanks to both writers. This, with the usual vote of thanks to donors of presentations, having passed, His Excellency left the chair.