

# ROYAL SOCIETY.

MAY, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, May 8, T. Stephens, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

Mr. Charles Percy Sprent, who had previously been nominated by the Council, was balloted for and declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Barnard) brought under notice the following returns, received since last meeting, viz. :—

Number of visitors to Museum :—

January : On Sundays, 964 ; on week days, 1,420 ; total, 2,384.

February : On Sundays, 986 ; on week days, 1,220 ; total, 2,206.

March : On Sundays, 910 ; on week days, 1,805 ; total, 2,715.

April : On Sundays, 1,165 ; on week days, 970 ; total, 2,135.

Number of visitors to Gardens :—

January, total, 4,886 ; February, total, 5,014 ; March, total, 5,024 ;

April, total, 4,497.

Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—

From Messrs. Huber and Co., France, 27 packets seeds.

From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux and Co., five ditto.

From M. A. Van Geert, Ghent, one box of ornamental deciduous trees and shrubs.

From Mr. Thos. Gulliver, Townsville, North Australia, one case Australian orchids.

From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, U.S.A., 18 papers of seeds.

From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Sydney, one bag of seed of *Araucaria Bidwilli*.

From Baron Ferd. von Mueller, Melbourne, 54 papers seeds (various).

From the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.A., 12 papers of seeds.

From Messrs. Vilmorin, Andrieux and Co., Paris, 5 papers seeds.

Plants, etc., sent from Gardens :—

To Dr. Schomburgh, Adelaide Botanic Gardens, Sphagnum Moss.

To Mr. Guilfoyle, Melbourne.

Botanic Gardens, Melbourne. To Mr. Chas. Moore, Botanic Gardens, Sydney, ditto. To De Smet Freres and Co., chest 32 Tree Ferns, and one case of Norfolk Island Pines. To A. Van Geert, Ghent, 10 Tree Ferns. To Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, one case of mixed bulbs.

Books and periodicals received.

Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorological Returns* :—

1. Hobart, from Captain Shortt, Government Observer. Tables of observations for January, February, March, and April. Table of rainfall in Tasmania for 1882.

2. From Mr. Roblin. Abstracts and results of meteorological observations taken at the lighthouses, Tasmania, in 1882.

Results of the Hobart observations for January, February, March, and April.

January :—

Barometer.—Mean, for month, 29·834in.

Thermometer.—Means : Max., 71·4 ; min., 56·2 ; dry, 63·7 ; wet, 58·8.

Humidity.—Dew point : Mean, 55·3 ; elastic force of vapour, ·438 ; humidity, ·740.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 9 ; amount collected, 3·60in.

Cloud.—Mean daily amount 7 (scale 0—10).

Wind.—Prevailing direction, E., S.E., N.W. ; Mean force 1·9 (scale 0—12).

Remarks.—Rain fell on 9 days ; the heaviest fall registered, at 9 a.m. on the 17th, was 1·48in. The highest temperature in the shade was 84·2 on the 15th ; the lowest, on the night of the 17th, was 49·6. Light winds from E., S.E., and N.W., fine but cloudy weather. The lowest reading of the Barometer was 29·350 at 3 p.m. on the 20th ; the highest 30·237, at 9 p.m. on the 17th.

February :—

Barometer.—Mean : 29·707.

Thermometer.—Mean : Max., 69·5 ; min., 55·5 ; dry, 62·6 ; wet, 58.

Humidity.—Dew point, 54·7 ; elastic force of vapour, ·428 ; humidity, ·753.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 14 ; amount collected, 2·081.

Cloud.—Mean daily amount 7 (scale 0—10).

Wind.—Prevailing direction W., and E.S.E.

Remarks.—Rain fell on 14 days ; the heaviest fall, 1·21in., at 9 a.m. on the 28th. Highest temperature in shade 80 on the 7th, the lowest 48 on the night of the 18th. Light winds from W. and E.S.E. Slight Aurora at 10 p.m. on the 8th. Thick misty weather from 9th to 12th. Vivid lightning on evening of 12th. Heavy rain on 27th and 28th. Thunder and lightning on evening of 27th. Thick fog on morning of the 28th, a gale of wind in the afternoon from S.W., continuing until next morning with heavy rain. The lowest reading of the Barometer was 28·755 at 3 p.m. of the 28th. The highest 30·132 at 9 a.m. of the 5th.

March :—

Barometer.—Mean, 29·906.

Thermometer.—Means : Max., 68·6 ; min., 55·6 ; dry, 64·3 ; wet, 59·7.

Humidity.—Dew point, 56·5 ; elastic force of vapour, ·457 ; humidity, ·758.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 14 ; amount collected, 3·62 inches.

Cloud.—Mean daily amount 6·4 (scale 0—10).

Wind.—Prevailing direction, N.W. and S.S.E.

Remarks.—Rain fell on 14 days, the heaviest fall on any one day, 1·45in., was registered at 9 a.m. on the 1st. Highest temperature in shade 86, on the 8th, and in the sun 101, on the same day. The lowest temperature 48 on the night of 28th. Highest reading of the barometer, 30·207in., at 9 a.m., on the 23rd ; the lowest, 29·485, at 3 p.m. on the 9th. Light winds from N.W. and S.S.E. during the month. Showery with winds from S.E. from 10th to 14th, and heavy rain on the 12th. Thick misty weather with light rain from 18th to 23rd.

April :—

Barometer.—Mean, for month, 29·901in.

Thermometer.—Means : Max., 63·7 ; min., 49·4.

Dry bulb, 59·1 ; wet bulb, 55.

Humidity.—Dew point, 51·8 ; elastic force of vapour, ·385 ; humidity, 768.

Condensation.—No. of days on which rain fell, 9 ; amount collected, 0·48in.

Cloud.—Mean, daily amount, 5·8 (scale 0—10.)

Wind.—Prevailing direction, S., and N.W., mean force, 1·8 (scale—0·12.)

Remarks.—The rainfall for the month was very slight, being only 0·48 inches. Highest temperature in shade 73·5 on the 3rd; the lowest 43 on the night of 23rd. Winds light from N.W. and S. Thick fog on the Derwent on the morning of the 29th. Mr. O. C. Heiden reports that three distinct shocks of earthquake were felt at Gould's Country on 12th and 13th. The middle of the eclipse on the evening of the 22nd was well defined, although scud was driving across the moon from the S.E. A lunar rainbow was observed previous to the eclipse, and a halo round the moon during its continuance.

Station.	January.		February.		March.		April.	
	Days.	Amount. Inches.	Days.	Amount. Inches.	Days.	Amount. Inches.	Days.	Amount. Inches.
Hobart	9	3·60	14	2·08	14	3·62	9	0·48
Botanic Gardens	11	3·57	14	1·61	13	2·75	6	0·42
Southport	8	3·13	10	4·11	12	4·65	10	0·73
Fingal	7	2·35	11	2·57	4	2·91	4	0·72
Falmouth	10	1·78	13	3·67	9	1·62	3	0·51
Oatlands	7	2·54	9	2·29	10	4·87	7	0·37
Low Heads	7	0·55	8	1·75	12	2·74	7	0·93
Mount Bischoff	13	1·60	17	4·07	19	5·87	18	3·02
Circular Head	7	1·03	8	2·68	14	4·20	13	1·79
Macquarie Harbour	5	2·05	5	2·03	6	2·35	—	—
Killymoon, Fingal...	—	—	11	3·34	12	2·55	8	0·78
Launceston	—	—	—	—	15	2·03	11	1·12

RAINFALL 1883.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during January, February, March and April, 1883 :—

January :—

- 7th. *Veronica augustifolia* in full flower.
- 10th. First ripe Apricot gathered (Roman).
- 14th. *Grevillea robusta* in full flower.
- 14th. Jargonelle Pear commencing to ripen.
- 20th. *Catalpa syringifolia* in flower.
- 31st. Mulberries commencing to ripen.

February :—

- 7th. Kerry Pippin commencing to ripen.
- 8th. Windsor Pear commencing to ripen.
- 10th. Bon chretien commencing to ripen.
- 14th. Greengage Plum commencing to ripen.

(In a note appended to this return Mr. Abbott remarks :—“Owing to the continued showers during the season the ash and sycamore are retaining their leaves much longer than usual.”)

March :—

- 10th. Tips of horbeam turning yellow.
- 20th. Seckle pair ripe.
- 24th. Golden Drop Plum (Coes) ripe.
- 24th. Tips of Elm turning yellow.
- 26th. Tips of Horsechestnut turning brown.
- 31st. Ash leaves commencing to fall.
- 31st. Oak leaves commencing to fall.

April :—

- 14th. Chinese chrysanthemum in flower.
- 15th. Elm leaves commencing to fall.
- 16th. Coes late red plum commencing to ripen.
- 22nd. *Pyrus aucuparia* leaves commencing to fall.
- 28th. Black Mulberry leaves commencing to fall.
- 30th. Seeds of hornbeam ripe.

The presentations to the Museum were as follow :—

1. From A. T. Clerk, Esq. 17 spears, 2 throwing sticks, 1 shield, 1 stone axe, and 5 baskets made and used by the Aborigines near Cashmere Station, North Kennedy District, Cardwell, Queensland.
2. From Mr. G. Elliot, Melbourne. 34 Brazilian birds, and a fine pair of horns of the Cashmere Water Buffalo.
3. From Miss Edgar. A prepared specimen of the fox shark, or “thresher,” (*Alopias vulpes*) caught in Auckland Harbour, New Zealand.
4. From Mr. W. Woodin. Fossils, Teeth, etc., from the Liverpool Plains, New South Wales, stated to have been found lying on the bed rock at a depth of 115 feet from the surface.
5. From Mr. H. J. Warner. Slab of fine Clay, with Fern Impressions, from York Plains Coal Mine, Cast of Spirifer.
6. From Mr. R. Brown. Two samples of Tin from the claim of the Empress Company, Koetong, Victoria.
7. From Mr. W. Rayner, New Norfolk, Specimens of Iron Pyrites and silicified wood from Chariemont.
8. From R. P. Adams, Esq. Specimen of Asbestos, from Mount Bischoff.
9. From Mr. C. Basstian. 10 Maori stone Axes, in various stages of manufacture, from Woodstock, New Zealand.
10. From Mr. C. W. S. James. Fragments of boulder encrusted with crystals of carbonate of lime, from Waterworks, Hobart.
11. From Mr. J. E. Evans. Specimens of Tin Ore from Ben Lomond Mine.

12. From Col. Crawford. Specimen of Sucking Fish (*Echeneis remora*).
13. From Mrs. Wm. Crosby, jun. Specimen of Shell and animal of *Nautilus*.
14. From Mr. E. D. Swan. A Diamond Snake (*Morelia spilotes*) from the Quarantine Station, Sydney, prepared and mounted.
15. From the Hon. the Minister of Lands and Works, N. J. Brown. Model of a Gold Nugget found at the Whyte River, Tasmania, by McGinty and party, February 18, 1883. Weight, 243oz.
16. Ditto from the same locality, found by Griffin and party, March, 1883. Weight, 143oz. 6dwts.
17. From Mr. C. Edge. A diamond snake (*Hoplocephalus superbus*) from near Hobart Waterworks.
18. From Mr. J. Whittaker. A large black snake (*Hoplocephalus curtus*) from Cascade Gully.
19. From Mr. C. Glover. Rock specimens. Copper ore, etc., from High Rocky Head, West Coast, Tasmania.
20. From Messrs. G. C. Westbrook and Edward Young, specimen of the Port Jackson shark (*Cestracion Philippi*).
21. From Mr. Hume. Fossil leaf impressions from N. S. Wales.
22. From Mr. W. F. Petterd. Specimens of new species of Tasmanian mammals described in a paper by Dr. Higgins and the donor.
23. From Mr. H. H. Baily. Two large specimens of silver lead ore from Mount Claude.
24. From Mr. Thos. Davis. Plates of baleen (whalebone) from Cloudy Bay Beach, D'Entrecasteaux Channel.
25. From Mr. John Page. An aboriginal stone implement from the Eastern Marshes.
26. From Mr. T. Stephens. Three specimens of Tasmanian Woods polished, viz., native sandal wood (*Alyxia buxifolia*), Red pine (*Athrotaxis sclaginoides*) and pencil cedar pine (*Athrotaxis cupressoides*).
27. From Master J. A. Murphy. Specimens of small crustaceans (*Grimothea gregaria*?) recently washed on shore in immense numbers at Howrah, Kangaroo Point, and the adjacent bays.
28. From Mr. John Cotton, Earlham, Orford. A large file, thickly encrusted with oxide of iron, found in the Sandspit River. (In reference to this presentation Mr. Cotton remarks, "I am at a loss to conjecture how such an instrument could get where found. I have resided here now 25 years and never had a file of the kind, and the very few and far between visitors who come to our river are poor fishers, not likely to be possessed of an implement of that description. It would be interesting to know its history.")
29. From Dr. Barnard. 25 specimens of minerals, etc., chiefly from New South Wales, viz., model of a gold nugget weighing 64oz., found near Gulgong, N.S.W. Gold-bearing copper ore from Mitchell's Creek. Ditto, copper ore from Girilambone, ditto. Ditto, containing 56 per cent. of copper, from Wellington, N.S.W. Ditto (best) from Girilambone. Ditto, peacock and yellow, from Gulgong, N.S.W. Ditto, ditto, from Wellington. Native copper, from ditto. Green carbonate of copper in crystals. Silver ore from Narangarie, N.S.W. Ditto, from Boorook, ditto. Gold and mineral-bearing quartz from Wellington, N.S.W. Ore of zinc and iron from Bolara, N.S.W. Lead ore from near Gulgong, N.S.W. Specimen of fossil wood. Ore of Bismuth from New England, N.S.W. Cinnabar from Cudgegong. Nickel ore from New Caledonia. Crystals of iron pyrites. Ditto from silver mines of Potosi, South America. Three specimens of fossil leaf im-



pressions, and two of fossil wood from Gulgong. Surveyor's mark cut in a native apple tree, on the Macintyre River, and overgrown by new wood  $1\frac{1}{2}$  inches thick in eight years.

The SECRETARY read a paper on "New Species of Tasmanian Antechini and Mus," by Edmund T. Higgins, M.R.C.S., England, F.L.S., and William F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

The CHAIRMAN remarked that some incidental reference had already been made to the proposed establishment of an Australasian Geographical Society, of which some of the Fellows present had seen notices in the *Sydney Morning Herald*. The scheme was first mooted by a committee of the Royal Society of New South Wales; but it had been thought advisable to found the institution on a wider basis, in order to secure the co-operation of all the Australasian colonies in furtherance of the objects of the new Society. These are briefly stated to be "the advancement of geographical science and the study of the physical and commercial geography of the world, more especially that of Australasia. The society would fill up a great gap in the education of the people, and public lectures would be given on all countries illustrative of their commerce, productions and industries." He (Mr. Stephens) thought he might say that although it would be premature to discuss the matter until the constitution, objects, and mode of procedure of the society were more fully defined, there would be no difference of opinion among the Fellows present as to the importance of the subject, and that further information would be gladly received.

Some conversation in favour of the proposed society followed the remarks of the Chairman, reference being made to the prevailing want of geographical knowledge of this group of colonies, particularly in the Mother Country.

Mr. C. H. GRANT then moved, "That the thanks of the meeting be accorded to the authors of the paper read, and to the donors of the various presentations."

Dr. PERKINS seconded the motion, and referred to the numerous additions to the museum, and especially to the varied collection of mineral specimens from N.S.W. presented by Dr. Barnard.

The motion having been unanimously agreed to the proceedings terminated.

## JUNE, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 12th June, C. H. Grant, Esq., in the chair.

The following gentlemen, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were balloted for and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society, viz., Captain Shortt, R.N., Mr. William Humphrey Page, Bengal Civil Service, and Mr. James Fincham, C.E.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Barnard) brought forward the following returns for the past month, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—

On Sundays, 1,387 ; on week days, 425 ; total 1,812.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 4,467.

3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—

From Messrs. Shepherd and Co., Sydney, seeds of 18 species of eucalypti.

From the Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, seeds of 24 species of palms.

From Baron Von Mueller, 150 packets seeds.

From Mrs. R. P. Harris, 30 packets seeds from the Botanic Gardens, Saharunpore, India.

From Mr. J. Smith, Victoria, 12 plants.

From Messrs. Vilmorin and Co., Paris, 5 packets seeds.