

AUGUST, 1879.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, August 12, His Excellency the Governor in the chair.

Mr. Albert Wagenknecht, of George's Bay, who had been nominated by the Council, was balloted for and declared duly elected as a Fellow of the Society. The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the following returns, received since last meeting :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum on Sundays, 874 ; on week days, 788 ; total, 1,662.
2. Ditto to Gardens, total 3,998.
3. Plants, etc., sent from Gardens.
4. Time of leafing, etc., of a few standard plants in Botanic Gardens during July.
5. Books and periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum and Library.

Meteorology.—1. Hobart Town, from F. Abbott, Esq., table for July.

2. Coast stations, from the Marine Board, viz.:—Bruni Island, tables for April, May, and June ; Goose Island, ditto March, April, May, and June ; Swan Island, ditto May and June ; King's Island, ditto February to June ; and Mount Nelson, ditto for June and July.
3. Melbourne, from R. J. Ellery, Esq., F.R.S., printed tables for April, 1879.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows :—

1. From Mr. Wm. Nelson—A small collection of Fossils from the Limestone Quarries, Wauru Ponds, near Geelong, Victoria. (This collection consists chiefly of Sponges, Echinodermata and their spines, Sharks' teeth, etc., many of the specimens being in a beautiful state of preservation.)
2. From Mr. A. K. Johnston—A Girdle made of the fur of the Opossum, the only article of clothing worn by the native women of Northern Queensland.
3. From Mr. W. E. Shoobridge—A large specimen of "Native Bread" (*Mytilita Australis*), ploughed up at New Norfolk.
4. From Mr. A. J. Taylor—A cast of the skull of a criminal executed for murder.
5. From Mr. Frederick Thorne—A specimen of Tiu Ore taken from 24ft. below the surface at the Montagu Tin Mining Company's claim, S.W. end of Mount Heemskirk.
7. From Mr. C. P. Sprent—About 150 specimens of minerals collected by the donor at Mount Bischoff, Mount Heemskirk, etc., etc.

Presentations of Books were also announced from the Trustees of the British Museum, the Royal Geographical Society, the Zoological Society, the Royal Institution of Great Britain, the British Association, the Geological Society of London, the Linnean Society, the Geological Society of Belgium, the Malacological Society of ditto, the Entomological Society of ditto, the Royal Colonial Institute, the New Zealand Institute, the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, the Asiatic Society of Japan, Mr. W. F. Petterd, Dr. Agnew, etc., etc.

Special attention was also directed to the elaborate and beautifully illustrated work on the Birds of Ceylon, lately acquired for the library. An interest external to its intrinsic worth attached to the book as it was the work of a Tasmanian, Captain W. V. Legge, R.A., son of our old and respected colonist, Mr. R. V. Legge, of Cullenswood.

The SECRETARY read the following extract from a note received by him from Mr. Calder :—

"I do not know if there be any table extant which records the first spring appearance of those birds that visit us every year ; but whether or not, I believe it may interest you to know that one of those handsome birds

known locally as Summer-birds (*Graucalus parvirostris*) was in my garden this day. I mean that handsome grey, slate-coloured bird, with black head, that is so numerous during the summer months in the open forest lands of Tasmania.

“31st July, 1877.”

Mr. EDWARD SWAN remarked that the 31st July was a very early date for the appearance of the Graucalus. He himself had seen the bird on the 4th inst., at Sandy Bay.

The SECRETARY read a paper entitled, “Notes on Bythinella” (a genus of fresh water shells), etc., by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, F.G.S., F.L.S., etc., Corresponding Member Royal Soc., Tas., and President of the Linnean Society of N.S.W.

In the absence of the author, the SECRETARY read a paper by Mr. F. Abbott, Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens, entitled, “Notes on the Wild, or Canadian Rice.” This paper was of a highly suggestive, and practical character, and the wish was expressed by several present that as much publicity as possible should be given to it. It was felt that the acclimatisation of the *Zizania* would no doubt realise most, if not all, of the benefits to be expected from its introduction. By several of the Fellows, the Lakes Dulverton and Tiberias and the Great Lake were suggested as localities where the experiment should be tried, but of the three it was the general opinion that Dulverton offered the most advantages as that locality would be more under supervision, and its entire surface was probably not too thickly covered by existing vegetation. A few small parcels of seed have been forwarded to the Museum for distribution.

The SECRETARY read the following note from Mr. F. Abbott, junr., with the communication to which it refers from the Department of Agriculture, Washington, U.S.:—

“The accompanying communication from the Chamber of Agriculture, Washington, relative to the Codling Moth, I received on Saturday last (9th August). No reference is made in it to any reports having been made by Commissioners or otherwise on the Moth, although I expressly asked for them, should there be any. The information supplied by the Department does not add much to our previous knowledge of this pest, but it confirms the fact of there being two generations in the year, and gives detailed instructions for the suppression of the Moth.”

“Department of Agriculture,

“Washington, June 10th, 1879.

“F. Abbott, junr., Botanic Gardens, Hobart Town, Tasmania.

“Sir,—I have the pleasure of enclosing the information you desire relative to the Codling Moth, though I fear it will be too late for use this season.

“I have the honour, etc., etc.,

“Wm. G. LE DUC,

“Commissioner of Agriculture.”

—
“Department of Agriculture,

“Division of Entomology,

“Washington, D.C., June 10th, 1879.

“Sir,—In the absence of the Entomologist, I take the liberty of answering the request of Mr. F. Abbott, junr., of Hobart Town, Tasmania, for information regarding the Codling Moth (*Carpocapsa pomonella*).

“In the apple growing regions of the United States the Codling Moths first appear while the trees are in blossom. The sexes pair, and the females lay their eggs in the flower end of the forming fruit. The worms mature in from thirty to thirty-five days, and, leaving the fruit, seek a convenient niche wherein to spin up and transform. In two weeks more the moths

appear and lay their eggs, this time usually in the side of the apple. The larvæ winter in their cocoons, transforming to chrysalides the following spring. The universal remedy in this country is by the use of paper or hay bands around the trunks of the trees, these affording artificial places for the worms to transform. The following rules have been laid down for the use of these bands:—

“1st. The bands should be placed around the trees by the 1st of June, and kept on until every apple has been picked.

“2nd. They should be examined and all larvæ and chrysalides killed, every week, or at the latest every fortnight.

“3rd. The trunks of the trees should be kept free from old rough bark, so as to give the worms no other place of shelter.

“4th. The ground itself should be kept clean from weeds and rubbish. Experience has shown that common straw wrapping paper, folded into a band from 3in. to 6in. wide, and tacked around the tree midway between the first fork and the ground, makes as cheap and satisfactory a band as has been found.

“In addition to the bands it is advisable to feed all windfalls to the hogs.

“Very respectfully,

“L. O. HOWARD,

“Assistant in Entomological Division.

“Hon. W. G. Le Duc, Commissioner Agriculture.”

Mr. STEPHENS read a paper on the same subject by Augustus Simson, Esq., of Gould's Country. Introductory to the reading Mr. Stephens remarked it was almost unnecessary to say that anything from the pen of the author on the matter now before the meeting carried special weight, Mr. Simson's acquirements as an Entomologist being superior to those of any other individual amongst us. For this reason he (Mr. Stephens) thought that, in addition to its general interest, the practical suggestions contained in the paper would be found of much value.

A special vote of thanks to the authors of the papers, and the usual vote to the donors of presentations closed the proceedings.