

## SEPTEMBER, 1880.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society, which was very numerously attended, was held at the Museum on Monday, the 13th September; His Honor Mr. Justice Dobson, V.P., in the chair.

Mr. V. W. Hookey, 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, brought forward the following returns, etc., received since last meeting:—

1. Number of visitors to Museum during August—on Sundays, 1,206; on week days, 514; total, 1,720.
2. Do., to Gardens; total, 4,516.
3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens:—From Mr. J. Brown, six Plants of *Alsophila excelsa*. From the Acclimatisation Society of Queensland, one case of seedling Coniferæ. From the Victorian Horticultural Society, a collection of Fruit Scions. From Mr. Jno. Smith, Riddel's Creek, Victoria, one bundle of Plants and Scions.
4. Plants, etc., sent from Gardens:—To Botanic Gardens, Sydney, two bags of Sphagnum Moss. To the Launceston Corporation, 250 Plants for public places. For Main Line Railway reserve, Hobart, 12 Plants. For planting ground at Macquarie-street, entrance to Domain, 60 Plants.
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

*Meteorology.*—

1. New Norfolk, from Mr. W. E. Shoobridge.—Abstract tables, from April to August inclusive.
2. From the Hobart Marine Board.—Tables from Mount Nelson for August; Kent's Group, February to June; Bruni Island for July; Swan Island, April to June; and Cape Wickham, King's Island, February to June.

Time of leafing and flowering of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during August:—

- 20th. *Sambucus niger* commencing to break.  
 24th. Gooseberries do.  
 26th. Horsechestnut do.  
 30th. Apricot commencing to flower.  
 „ Poplar do.  
 31st. Elm do.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows:—

1. From Mr. James Patterson.—Specimens of Ore from the Silver-Lead Mining Company's section, Mount Bischoff.
2. From Mr. G. H. Rayner.—Specimens of Crystallised Iron Ore, and a small specimen of Galena, from the New Norfolk district.
3. From Mr. T. Hainsworth, Latrobe.—A large collection of Specimens from plant beds of the Mersey Coal Measures, comprising *Glossopteris* and other fern impressions, with seeds, etc., in a good state of preservation.
4. From Mr. C. E. Beddome.—Cast of *Pachydomus gigas* (?) from near North-west Bay.
5. From Mr. W. L. Boyes.—Specimen of the Rednecked Avocet (*Recurvirostra rubricollis*), from George's Bay.

The SECRETARY read the following extract from a letter from Mr. C. M. Officer, of Melbourne, written in reply to a request for information on the subject, by Mr. C. Gould:—"With reference to the 'Mindi,' or

Mallee Snake, it has often been described to me as a formidable creature, of at least 30ft. in length, which confined itself to the mallee scrub. No one, however, has ever seen one, for the simple reason that to see it is to die, so fierce it is, and so great its powers of destruction. Like the 'Bunyip,' I believe the 'Mindi' to be a myth—a mere tradition."

The SECRETARY informed the meeting that a fragment of a paper, by the late Mr. T. G. Gregson, on the habits and manners of the Tasmanian Aborigines, had been placed in his hands for perusal. The first portion of the paper referred particularly to the general treatment of the natives by the white population, but as that subject was fully treated of in "West's History of Tasmania," it could be of little interest to the meeting; the remaining portion, however, giving Mr. Gregson's impressions from personal observation of the Aborigines, was, he thought, of sufficient interest to warrant its being read. The paper was then read.

A paper by the Rev. J. E. Tenison-Woods, F.L.S., etc., "On some introduced Plants of Australia and Tasmania," was also read by the SECRETARY. The paper gave a long and most interesting account of the introduction and acclimatisation of about 35 plants, including the Bathurst Burr, common Nettle, several varieties of Thistle, Fumitory, Verbena, etc., etc.

Captain STANLEY, R.N., read a valuable paper on "Oyster and other Fisheries."

Discussion took place on various matters connected with oyster fisheries, and a general expression of feeling was given to the effect that, seeing our native oyster beds were being rapidly destroyed, some prompt and decided action should be taken for the purpose of preserving them, and of turning their produce to a profitable account, in the interest both of the State and of the community.

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