

Dobson that it was not desirable to publish the observations taken at the lighthouses. The great value of these observations was to enable meteorologists to know the course of great atmospheric disturbances ; to give information to the Board of Trade and Marine Courts of Enquiry, and to meet exceptional occurrences ; but they are not, and cannot be, made sufficiently complete and accurate to have scientific value ; nor are the observers, however intelligent and willing, sufficiently instructed. There is great danger of adding to the masses of unreliable figures already before the world, which it is almost impossible to discriminate from the good data. At the same time, he thought the Society under an obligation to Mr. Nowell for taking the trouble to examine and adjust these returns, and hoped his remarks would not be taken as depreciating that gentleman's labour ; he could only deal with the figures furnished him.

Mr. NOWELL was quite willing, as there appeared to be doubts as to the accuracy of the observations themselves, or of the instruments with which they were made, that the paper should not be published. His object would have been to some extent attained by directing attention to the subject, and by eliciting the information with which they had been favoured by the members who were present. Since he had come into that room he had casually taken up a publication, emanating from the Sydney Observatory, containing a large number of meteorological observations extending over several pages ; and on looking at the prefatory matter, he found that the work was done by the astronomer, with the aid of amateurs whose assistance he had solicited ; and the speaker suggested that something of the same kind might be done here. Meteorological observations had been taken at New Norfolk for a series of years by Mr. W. E. Shoobridge, but they had not been reduced. Work of this kind might, he thought, easily be done by organised co-operation among a few volunteers. He hoped that the discussion which had taken place would be the means of obtaining further information as to the climate of the West and North-west Coasts, a part of the colony which at the present time was exciting so much interest.

[Since the meeting the following interesting observations have been received from Mr. S. B. Emmett, of Circular Head :—“ The annual fall of rain here is about 45in., in the most 69in., and least 33in. Mean range of thermometer, 57deg. at 9 a.m. Heaviest gales from N.W. during May, June, and July, always ending with thunder when the rain begins and the wind shifts. Thunder never heard (? when the wind blows from any quarter) from S.W. to E. Barometer rises from S.W. to E. and falls from N.E. to W. Thunder not heard with barometer above 29·60. For the gales from N.W. the barometer falls to 29 to 29·20 on an average. Once, twenty-five years ago, the barometer fell to 28·45. The storms here can be predicted at least 12 hours before greatest pressure. I have seen the barometer fall five-tenths in two hours.”]

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to Mr. Nowell for his paper, and to the donors of presentations—special reference being made to the large number of specimens contributed by the Tasmanian Commissioners for the Melbourne Exhibition.

AUGUST, 1881.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, the 8th August ; Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., in the chair.

The following persons were, on the nomination of the Council, unanimously elected honorary Members of the Society, viz. :—

1. Mrs. Charles Meredith, of Launceston, “ in recognition of her long efforts to encourage the study of the Natural History of Tasmania, by illustrations both literary and pictorial, in her various and highly-popular publications.”

2. Mr. James Smith, of Westwood, Forth, "in recognition of his rare perseverance and remarkable success in the discovery of Tin at Mount Bischoff."

The Rev. J. Wilkes Simmons and Mr. C. J. Atkins, who had previously been nominated by the Council, were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Fellows of the Society.

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

1. Number of Visitors to Museum :—On Sundays, 437 ; on week days, 775 ; total, 1,212.
2. Ditto to Gardens :—Total, 4,470.
3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—From Mr. J. B. Walker, plant of *Anthocercis Tasmanicus*. From Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, 53 plants. From Baron von Mueller, bulbs of a species of *Cynium* ; seeds of *Macrozamea Moorei*. From Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, 43 Roses. From Mr. J. Latham, 30 Roses. From Miss Solly, 5 packets seeds. From Messrs. Shepherd, Sydney, 45 plants and 24 new varieties of *Gladiolus*. From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, 10 plants.
4. Seeds sent from Gardens :—To Mr. S. Purchase, Parramatta, 50 packets ; to Messrs. Shepherd and Co., Sydney, 50 ditto.
5. Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Library.
7. Ditto to Museum.

Meteorological Returns :—

1. From Marine Board, Tables from Goose and Swan Islands for June.
2. From the Government Astronomer, Melbourne, Record of Meteorological Observations for November and December, 1880.
3. From Dr. Hector, Meteorological Observations taken in New Zealand during the quarter ended March 31 ; Observations taken at Wellington from February to June, 1881.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few Standard Plants in the Botanic Gardens during July :—

- 9th. First Snowdrop, in flower.
- 12th. *Cytisus leucanthus*, commencing to flower.
- 15th. *Arbutus unedo*, ditto.
- 18th. *Garrya elliptica*, ditto.
- 25th. Yellow Crocus, ditto.
- 31st. White Mulberry, buds bursting.
- 31st. White Hyacinth, commencing to flower.
- 31st. Almond, ditto.

The presentations to the Museum and Library were as follow :—

To Museum :—

1. From the Hon. W. A. B. Gellibrand, M.L.C.—A Native Tiger (*Thylacinus cynocephalus*).
2. From Mr. Maurice Weston, per Mr. Curzon Allport.—A White Hawk (*Leucospiza Novæ-Hollandiæ*.)
3. From Mr. Conrad, per Mr. G. Thureau.—An immense Claw of a Crab, from the West Coast.
4. From Mr. W. Aikenhead, Launceston.—Specimen of Copper Pyrites, from the Rising Sun claim, Beaconsfield. Silver-Lead Ore, from Mount Claude.
5. From the Rev. H. E. Drew.—A Young Turtle, from the Great Barrier Reef.
6. From Professor Ward, Rochester, United States.—Twenty-six Casts of Fossils, named and mounted.

To Library :—

1. From the United States Government, per Captain G. M. Wheeler, Corps of Engineers.—Geographical Surveys of the Territories West of the 100th Meridian ; Vol. 2, Astronomy, etc., 4to; Vol. 3, Geology, do.; Vol. 4, Palæontology, do.; Vol. 5, Zoology, do.; Vol. 6, Botany, do.; Topographical Atlas.
2. From the Smithsonian Institution, Washington.—Miscellaneous Collections, Vols. 13, 14, 15, 16, and 17, unbound ; Contributions to Knowledge, Vol. 22 ; Smithsonian Reports, 1877 (3 copies) and 1878.
3. From United States Government, per F. V. Hayden, U.S. Geologist.—Geological and Geographical Survey of the Territories—Colorado and Adjacent Territories, 1876 ; do. Idaho and Wyoming, 1877 ; Bulletin of the Survey, Vol. 4, Nos. 2, 3, 4, Vol. 5, No. 1 ; Entomological Commission, 1877, relating to Rocky Mountain Locust ; Bibliography of North American Invertebrate Palæontology ; Catalogue of Publications of the Survey, Report, Vol. 12, 4to, bound.
4. From the Government of Wisconsin, U. States, per T. C. Chamberlin, Chief Geologist.—Geology of Wisconsin, 1873-77, 1 Vol., 4to, bound, and maps.
5. From U. States Coast Survey Department.—Report of Superintendent, 1875.
6. From the Museum of Comp., Zoology, Cambridge, U.S.A., per Alex. Agassiz.—Bulletin, Vol. 4, Air-breathing Molluscs, by W. G. Binney, 2 Vols. ; Bulletin, Vol. 5, Nos. 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10 ; Vol. 6, Nos. 8, 9, 10, 11 ; Memoirs, Vol. 5, No. 2, "Report on Hydroïda," by G. J. Allman, M.D., etc.; do., Vol. 6, No. 1, (pts. 1 and 2), "Auriferous Gravels of the Sierra Nevada," by J. D. Whitney ; do., Vol. 7, No. 2, pt. 1, "The Climatic Changes of later Geological times," by J. D. Whitney ; do., "Report on "Fossil Plants of the Auriferous Gravel Deposits of the Sierra Nevada," by L. Lesquereux ; do., "Report on the Florida Reefs," by Louis Agassiz ; Report of Curator of Museum of Comparative Zoology, Harvard College, for 1879-80.
7. From the American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia.—Proceedings, Nos. 101 to 106, January, 1878, to June, 1880. List of Members.
8. From the American Academy of Arts and Sciences.—Proceedings 1877 to 1880 (5 parts).
9. From the United States Naval Observatory, Washington.—Washington Observations for 1869, 1870, 1871 ; Appendix for 1870, 1872, 1874, 1876 ; Tables of Transit Observations, 1872 ; Catalogue of Stars, Appendix 1 ; Researches on Motion of the Moon.
10. From the Essex Institute, Salem, U.S.A.—Bulletin, Vols. 10 and 11 (unbound) ; Historical Collections, Vols. 14, 15, 16.
11. From the Boston Society of Natural History.—Proceedings, Vol. 19, parts 3 and 4 ; Vol. 20, parts 1, 2, 3. Memoirs, Vol. 3, part 1, Nos. 1, 2, 3 ; Occasional Papers, No. 3, 1880.
12. From the American Association for the Advancement of Science.—Proceedings, Vols. 26 and 27 ; 1877, 1878.
13. From Connecticut Academy of Arts and Sciences.—Transactions, Vol. 3, part 2, Vol. 4, part 1.
14. From the "Lick" Observatory Trust, San Francisco.—Report of Observations made on Mount Hamilton, 1880.
15. From the Canadian Institute, Toronto.—Proceedings, 1879, Vol. 1, part 1.
16. From the Chief Signal Officer, Washington, U.S.A.—Daily Bulletins of Weather Reports, November and December, 1874 ; January, 1875, January, February, and March, April and May, 1877.

17. From Her Majesty's Secretary of State for India.—Account of the Great Trigonometrical Survey of India, 1879, Vols. 2, 3, 4, and 5 ; four vols. 4to.
18. From the Superintendent Geological Survey of India.—Memoirs of the Survey, Vol. 15, part 2; Vol. 17, parts 1 and 2. Palæontologia Indica, Ser. 14, Vol. 1, part 1 ; Ser. 13, parts 1 and 2 ; Ser. 10, Vol. 1, parts 4 and 5. Records of the Survey, Vol. 12, part 4, 1879 ; Vol. 13, parts 1 and 2, 1880.
19. From the Royal Astronomical Society.—Memoirs of the Society, Vol. 41, 1879, and Vol. 45, 1880.
20. From the Trustees of the British Museum.—Catalogue of Lepidoptera, parts 3 and 4 ; Illustrations of Typical Specimens of Coleoptera ; part 1, 1879.
21. From the Literary and Philosophical Society of Manchester.—Proceedings, Vol. 16, 1876-7 ; Vol. 17, 1877-8 ; Vol. 18, 1878-9 ; Vol. 19, 1879-80 ; Memoirs of Society, Vol. 8, 1879.
22. From the Royal Asiatic Society.—Journal, Vols. 11, part 3 ; 12, parts 1, 2, 3 ; 13, part 1.
23. From Royal Geographical Society.—Proceedings for February to December, 1880, January to March, 1881 (14 pts.) Journal of Society, Vol. 49, 1879.
24. From the Geological Society.—Quarterly Journal, Vol. 26, Nos. 141 to 144 ; Vol. 27, No. 145. List 1880.
25. From Zoological Society, London.—Proceedings 1879, part 4 ; 1880, parts 1, 2, 3 ; Catalogue of Library ; List of Vertebrated Animals.
26. From the Linnean Society.—Journal, Vol. 17, Nos. 103 to 105 ; Vol. 18, Nos. 106 to 110 (Botany) ; Journal, Vol. 15, Nos. 81 to 84 (Zoology).
27. From Statistical Society.—Journal, Vol. 43, part 4—12/80.
28. From the Institution of Engineers in Scotland.—Transactions, Vol. 23, 1879-80.
29. Royal Colonial Institute.—Proceedings, 1879-80, Vol. 11.
30. From the Malacological Society of Belgium.—Annals of the Society, Vols. 9 and 11, 1874 and 1876.
31. From Dr. Agnew.—Journal of the Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, Vol. 5, Nos. 39 to 41.

The Secretary, in reporting the above presentations to the Library, drew the special attention of members to the number and value of the books and publications which had been received from various scientific institutions of America, in exchange for the Transactions of the Society.

The Chairman read a short paper on the question of establishing in the Society's Gardens a "Class Ground," or systematic arrangement to illustrate the classification of plants according to their Natural Orders ; with a communication from Dr. Agnew on the subject, and a letter from Dr. Schomburgk, of the Botanic Gardens, Adelaide.

A lengthened discussion followed the reading of this paper, in which most of the Fellows present took part, eliciting many different views of the proposal ; and it was ultimately determined to resume the consideration of the subject at the next evening meeting of the Society.

A vote of thanks to the donors of presentations to the Museum and Library closed the proceedings, special reference being made to the very liberal and valuable donations of books received from the United States Government and various scientific institutions in America.