

5. From the author, the Rev. P. MacPherson, A.M., Sydney. "A Lecture on the Religion of the Aborigines of Australia."
6. From the Victorian Chamber of Commerce. A paper on Australian Wines, by Leo. Moonen.
7. From the New Zealand Institute. Transactions and Proceedings of the Institute, Vol. 15, 1882.

The attention of the meeting was called to a collection of beautifully preserved fossils from the Tertiary Beds at Table Cape, which had been forwarded by the owner, Mr. Tofft, for exhibition only.

Mr. F. ABBOTT read a paper entitled "Notes on New Plants introduced into the Royal Society's Gardens during 1882."

After the reading of this paper a long and interesting discussion ensued, in which Mr. C. H. Grant, Mr. E. D. Swan, Mr. Belstead, Mr. Abbott, and Mr. Barnard took part.

The Rev. J. WILKES SIMMONS remarked that on his recent visit to Sydney he had sought information as to the newly-formed Geographical Society of Australasia, referred to at last meeting, and read the following note on the subject:—"The objects of the Geographical Society of Australasia are scientific, commercial, and educational. The first point embraces the exploration of unknown and imperfectly known parts of Australasia; the second, the study of the natural and artificial products of various countries and their industries; and the third, the promotion of the knowledge of physical, commercial, and political geography amongst all classes by means of illustrated public lectures and various publications. This scheme includes the collection of information for the compilation of a reliable geography of Australasia. It is intended that the society shall consist of honorary, corresponding, and ordinary members. The first, persons who have rendered valuable services in the cause of geographical science; the second, residents of Australasia elected for their promotion of the interests of the society. Any lady or gentleman may become an ordinary member, subject to election. Colonies joining in the movement are styled provinces—thus: 'the province of New South Wales,'—and three members from each associated province have seats at the Board of the General Council. The members of the society in any associated province may elect a local committee. Reports of the transactions of the society will be published, including reports from local committees."

Votes of thanks having been accorded to Mr. Abbott and the Rev. J. W. Simmons for their communications, the proceedings closed with a similar acknowledgment to the donors of presentations.

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## JULY, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday, 10th July, T. Stephens, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The hon. secretary, Mr. Barnard, called attention to the following returns for the month of June, viz. :—

1. Visitors to Museum :—

On Sundays, 1,185; on week days, 934; total, 2,119.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 3,696.

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

From Mr. A. Wilson, Dunedin, one box of New Zealand ferns.

From Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, 100 plants, (various).

From Col. Crawford, Castra, seeds of *Poirrea Doccinza*.

From Mr. J. Smith, Victoria, 9 plants.

From Mr. Owen Meredith, seedlings of Douglas River pine.

4. Plants, etc., sent from Gardens :—

To Mr. G. Brunning, Melbourne, a collection of seeds.

- To Baron Von Mueller, ditto.
- To Messrs. Shepherd, Sydney, ditto.
- To Mr. J. Smith, Victoria, ditto, and case of plants.
- To Mr. T. Gulliver, Townsville, Queensland, collection of seeds.
- To Mr. C. Creswell, Victoria, ditto.

- 5. Periodicals received.
- 6. Presentations to Museum and Library.

*Meteorology* :—

- 1. From Captain Shortt, Government Observer. Table of means of observations for June.
- 2. Table of rainfall at 12 stations in Tasmania.
- 3. From the Government Observer, Wellington, New Zealand. Printed tables for March and April.

The following are the results of the Hobart observations for June :—

Barometer.—Mean : 29·708in.  
 Thermometer.—Mean : Max., 57·4 ; min., 45· ; dry, 51·8 ; wet, 48·3.  
 Humidity.—Dew point, 44·9 ; elastic force of vapour, ·298 ; humidity, ·774.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 17 ; amount collected, 1·61in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount, 6·9 ; (scale, 0—10).

Wind.—Mean force, 2·6 ; (scale, 0—12).

Remarks.—The month has been an unusually mild one, the mean temperature being 6· higher than that of June, 1882. Rain fell on 17 days, the heaviest fall on any one day was 0·33in. on the 4th. Highest temperature in the shade, 62·3 on the 14th ; the lowest, 39·2 on night of 2nd. Highest reading of the barometer, 30·162in. at 9 a.m. of the 11th ; the lowest, 28·908in. at 9 p.m. of the 22nd. Snow fell on Mount Wellington on 22nd, 23rd, and 29th. Fogs, some very dense, prevailed during the first part of the month. Winds chiefly from W.N.W., blowing hard on the 16th and 17th, and a strong gale on the 25th. Very heavy rains in northern portion of the colony. Heavy shocks of earthquake have been felt at Gould's Country and in that vicinity during the month.

Rainfall in Tasmania, June, 1883 :—

|                         |           |        |        |
|-------------------------|-----------|--------|--------|
| Southport, rain fell on | 10 days ; | amount | 2·46.  |
| Hobart                  | 17        | ”      | 1·61.  |
| Ditto (Bot. Gardens)    | 16        | ”      | 1·67.  |
| Oatlands                | 8         | ”      | 1·55.  |
| Fingal                  | 7         | ”      | 2·08.  |
| Ditto, (Killymoon)      | 16        | ”      | 1·67.  |
| Falmouth                | 8         | ”      | 1·47.  |
| Launceston              | 20        | ”      | 6·16.  |
| Low Heads               | 19        | ”      | 5·20.  |
| Mt. Bischoff            | 28        | ”      | 12·78. |
| Circular Head           | 20        | ”      | 5·44.  |
| Gould's Country         | 15        | ”      | 11·36. |

Time of leafing, flowering, etc., of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during June :—

- 12th. Calycanthus præcox in full flower. 14th. Early narcissus commencing to flower.
- 18th. Maclaura aurantiaca, leaves commencing to shed.
- 22nd. Privet, ditto.
- 26th. Snowflake commencing to flower.
- 28th. Iris alata, ditto.
- 30th. Black mulberry leaves all shed.

The presentations were as follows :—

To Museum:—1. From Dr. E. T. Higgins, and Mr. W. F. Petterd, male and female type specimens of a new cave-inhabiting spider

(*Theridion troglodytes*), from a recently discovered cave in the Chudleigh district.

2. From the same. A collection of mammalian remains from the cave referred to above.

(These presentations are illustrative of a paper contributed by the donors).

To Library :—

1. From the Royal Society of Victoria, Proceedings of the Society. Vol. 19, 1882.
2. From Government of Tasmania, House of Assembly journals, Vols. 42, and 43.
3. From Mr. G. McIntyre, Christchurch, Report of the Survey Department, New Zealand, 1881-2.

A paper entitled "Description of a new cave-inhabiting spider, together with notes on mammalian remains from a recently discovered cave in the Chudleigh district." By Edmund T. Higgins, M.R.C.S., Eng., F.L.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S., was read by the Secretary.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the authors of the paper, and to the donors of presentations.

## AUGUST, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 13th August, T. Stephens, Esq., V.P., in the chair.

The hon. Secretary, Mr. Barnard, brought forward the following returns for July, viz :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—On Sundays, 1,244 ; on week days, 1,125 ; total for month, 2,369.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 4,188.

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

From Messrs. J. Smith and Sons, Riddell's Creek, Victoria, 50 plants.

From Col. Crawford, seeds of *Poirrea coccinea*, from India.

From the Royal Gardens, Kew, seeds of *Rhus copallina*.

From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, 30 plants.

From Baron Von Mueller, 3 packets seeds.

From Dr. Hector, Wellington, New Zealand, package of seeds.

Plants, etc., sent from Gardens :—

To Messrs. Law, Somner and Co., Melbourne, one case plants and seeds.

To Mr. W. R. Guilfoyle, director of Botanic Gardens, Melbourne, one case plants.

To Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, one package of seeds.

5. Presentations to Museum.

6. Ditto to Library. (The Secretary drew the special attention of the meeting to the valuable collection of books received during the past month from the United States Government, the Smithsonian and other scientific institutions in America, in exchange for the Society's Transactions. Also to the numerous publications of various learned bodies, in England and elsewhere, received in the same manner.)

*Meteorology* :—

1. Hobart.—From Captain Shortt, Government Observer, Table of means of observations for July.

2. From ditto, table of rainfall at 13 stations in Tasmania for July.

The following are the results of the Hobart observations for July :—

Barometer.—Mean : 29·773in.

Thermometer.—Means : max., 52·9 ; min., 40·1 ; dry, 46·1 ; wet, 43·2.