

(*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.

Humidity.—Dew point, 39·8; elastic force of vapour, 0·245; humidity, 0·785.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 12; amount collected, 1·23in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount, 5·7; (scale, 0—10).

Wind.—Mean force, 2·1; (scale, (0—12.) Prevailing direction, South and W.N.W.

Remarks.—The highest temperature in the shade was 60 deg. on the 12th; the lowest, 31·5, and 30·5, on the nights of the 23rd and 24th respectively. The highest recording of the barometer, 30·248in. at 9 a.m. on the 30th; the lowest, 28·972in., at 3 p.m. on 27th. Fogs frequent on nights and in early mornings. Very sharp frosts on nights of 23rd and 24th. A gale of wind from westward on 11th and 12th. Slight shocks of earthquake have been felt frequently in the north and N.E. portions of the colony, but on the evening of the 30th, within a space of ten minutes, between 7.50 and 8 p.m., heavy shocks and loud rumblings were experienced all over those parts. Slight aurora observed at Low Heads on 30th, and at Launceston on 31st. The last four days very fine spring-like weather.

Rainfall in Tasmania, July, 1883:—

Southport, rain fell on 18 days; amount	4·97
Hobart City ... 12	1·22
Bot. Gardens, Hobart 14	1·09
Oatlands 3	0·92
Fingal 6	0·94
Killymoon, Fingal 12	0·96
Falmouth 5	0·44
Launceston 15	4·49
Low Head 13	2·58
Mount Bischoff 26	9·88
Circular Head 18	3·70
Gould's Country... .. 11	5·96

Time of leafing, flowering and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Botanic Gardens during July 1883:—

- 10th. *Cytisus leucanthus*, commencing to flower.
- 15th. Paper almond, ditto.
- 20th. *Arbutus unedo*, ditto.
- 21st. *Garrya elliptica*, ditto.
- 27th. Yellow crocus, ditto.
- 30th. White mulberry, commencing to break.

The presentations to the Museum were as follows:—

1. From Mr. J. H. Cowen. A "Brain Bowl," taken from a cannibal chief at "Tui Tui Coko," Fiji.
2. From Mr. J. R. McClymont. Specimen of sponge, from East Coast, Tasmania.
3. From Mr. P. Lee, Campbell Town. A male specimen of the musk duck, (*Biziura lobata*.)
4. From Dr. Higgins and Mr. W. F. Petterd, Launceston. Two specimens of a new species of native rat (*Mus tetragonurus*), named and described in a paper contributed by the donors.

The Secretary read a letter from a gentleman in New South Wales, addressed to a resident of Hobart, of which the following is an extract:—
 "We are in search of an authenticated portrait of Tasman, and so far have been unsuccessful. Possibly Tasmania might have such a thing, and you would be a likely person to say whether my surmise is correct. If it is, I feel sure you will aid the designer of our beautiful, but defunct, Garden Palace in getting an idea of the personal appearance of the ancient navigator after whom your tight little island is named. Perhaps you have a bust or statue, if not a picture, of the hero in Tasmania:

either would, 'I fancy, answer the purpose, as by photography a *fac simile* could be taken and utilised for the purpose for which the likeness is required."

Mr. Justin Browne remarks in a note—"In a cheap publication in Dutch, published about five years ago, giving Tasman's discovery of Van Diemen's Land there is no portrait of Tasman, nor do I believe there is one to be found in the Colony; but I believe there are three copies of a likeness of Governor Van Diemen in existence here, of which I possess one." Mr. Browne adds, "*The Times*, in noticing the Amsterdam Exhibition, mentions that portraits of the Colonial Dutch Governors were exhibited, but names are not given."

THE REV. J. WILKES SIMMONS read a letter from the Hon. Secretary of the Geographical Society of Australasia, enclosing printed copy of rules, and asking for co-operation from the friends of Geographical Science in Hobart in forming a branch Society.

The SECRETARY expressed the fear that there was not sufficient scope for the formation of a distinct branch Society, important as it was in its objects—defined to be at once scientific, commercial, and educational—but undertook to bring the matter before the Council at its next meeting.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON read a "Notice of Additions to the list of Tasmanian Fishes, containing a description of a new species (*Olistherops Brownii*), and particularly referring to the recent successful introduction, by the Salmon Commissioners, into the Colony from New Zealand, of a species of Trout (*Salmo fontinalis*), a native of the rivers and lakes of North America.

Captain SHORTT read some introductory "Notes on earthquake shocks in reference to those reported to have recently occurred in the North and North-eastern parts of the island."

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON drew the attention of the members to two important articles, in the Geological Magazine for April and June, 1883, upon the Tertiary Flora of Australia. One of the articles, written by Professor Dr. C. Baron von Ettingshausen, of the University of Graz, Austria, who is one of the first authorities in Europe, is in itself the substance of a paper read before the Imperial Academy of Sciences in Vienna, giving the results of a special examination of a large series of fossil plants from the Tertiary strata of New South Wales and Tasmania. The Tertiary deposits in the neighbourhood of Hobart have been largely referred to, and many new species have been determined therefrom. As it is very desirable that important articles bearing upon our own natural history should be accessible to local naturalists, Mr. Johnston recommended that the articles referred to be reproduced in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania. Mr. Johnston also stated that it would be of the greatest benefit to local palæontologists if a copy of the original paper could be obtained and translated into English, in order that the new species determined could be identified with the names given; and he suggested that one of our Corresponding Members, Mr. Robert Etheridge, jun., of the British Museum, be asked to undertake the important task for the Society.

A general conversation ensued on the two papers read, after which votes of thanks, on the motion of Dr. Perkins, seconded by Mr. Atkins, were accorded to the authors, and also to the donors to the Museum and Library.

In introducing his paper Mr. JOHNSTON remarked that the two species now described by him (*Chilodactylus carponemus*, Parkinson, the "Old Man Perch," and *Sphyræna Nova Hollandiæ*, Gunther. "The Port Phillip Pike") were not embraced in his original catalogue of the fishes of Tasmania (1882). Dr. Richardson, nearly forty years ago, referred to the first mentioned species as inhabiting the waters in the neighbourhood of Port Arthur, but as the original description was defective, and as there was

no record of its capture in Tasmanian waters since that time, it was inferred that the reference to Tasmania was erroneous. The fortunate capture of two fine specimens, one of them 29 inches in length, in 26 fathoms water, 14 miles off Tasman Island, now satisfactorily disposes of all doubt, and enables us to amend the defects of the original description, which was taken from a specimen preserved in spirits. The other species described has not hitherto been recorded as inhabiting Tasmanian waters, although common enough in those of the neighbourhood of the Victorian coast. The specimen now described was captured in Sandy Bay. It is allied to the common "Tasmanian Jack, or Pike," but is rounder, more slender, and elongate. The list of known Tasmanian fishes by these additions is raised to 197 species. Mr. JOHNSTON also, in the course of his remarks, suggested the desirableness of having a good representation of our fishes, suitably preserved, and exhibited in the Society's Museum.

Mr. STEPHENS gave some particulars of the alterations now nearly completed in the large room upstairs, and remarked that Mr. Roblin would soon find plenty of employment for volunteers able and willing to help in arranging the specimens in the new cases. After quoting from the report of a debate in Parliament some remarks on the official duties of the Chief Inspector of Schools, and his supposed devotion to the Royal Society, which caused some amusement, he went on to say that he regretted very much that the want of spare time had of late years prevented him from doing anything worth mentioning for the Royal Society, but he hoped that the good work already being done by other members would be rather increased than lessened in the future.

The proceedings terminated with a vote of thanks to Mr. Johnston for his paper, and to the donors of presentations.

SEPTEMBER, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 10th September, Mr. C. T. Belstead in the chair.

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

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—

On Sundays, 1,065 ; on week days, 819 ; total, 1,884.

2. Ditto to Gardens, total, 4,434.

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

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

From Messrs. Shepherd, Sydney, one case of plants.

From Messrs. Law, Somner and Co., Melbourne, one bundle of plants.

4. Seeds sent from Gardens :—

To Ch. Huber and Co., France, one package of seeds.

To Villmorin and Co., France, ditto.

To Botanic Gardens, Cambridge, ditto.

To Botanic Gardens, Calcutta, ditto.

To the Horticultural Society, Madras, ditto.

To the Botanic Gardens, Cape of Good Hope, ditto.

To ditto, Natal, ditto.

To Chamber of Agriculture, United States, ditto.

5. Books and Periodicals received.

To Royal Gardens, Kew, ditto.

To Calcutta Exhibition Commissioners, ditto.

6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorology :—

1. Hobart, from Captain Shortt, Government Observer, weather report for August.