

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.

2. From ditto, table of rainfall at various stations through the colony.
3. From the Government Observer, Wellington, New Zealand, printed tables of observations for May and June.

4. From Mr. Ellery. Melbourne observations for May and June.

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

Barometer.—Mean of three daily observations, 29·60in.

Thermometer.—Means : max., 56·4 ; min., 43·4 ; dry, 50·5 ; wet, 45·9.

Humidity.—Dew point, 40·8 ; humidity, ·695 ; elastic force of vapour, ·255.

Condensation.—Number of days on which rain fell, 14 ; amount collected, 1·82in.

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

Wind.—Mean force, 3 ; (scale, 0—12.)

Remarks.—The highest temperature in the shade was 64, on the 10th ; the lowest, 34·6 on the 3rd. The highest recording of the barometer 30·248in. at 9 a.m. on the 22nd ; the lowest, 28·809in. at 9 p.m. on the 11th. The rainfall was slight at Hobart and in the midland districts, but heavy at Mount Bischoff and Gould's country—at the former rain fell on every day of the month, to the amount of 11·51in. Winds, chiefly from the N.W. ; gales on the 6th, 14th, and 26th. Snow fell on Mount Wellington several times during the month. Shocks of earthquake have been felt in the same parts of the colony as previously visited. The strongest shock yet felt occurred, nearly simultaneously, over the whole of the disturbed district, a little before and after 9 a.m. on the 30th. There was a tidal disturbance at the Huon on the 28th and 29th, the tide coming in with great speed and force, throwing up, in several places, mounds of mud 3ft. high.

Rainfall in Tasmania, August 1883 :— in.

Southport, rain fell on 23 days ; amount,	4·76
Hobart, City ,, 14 ,, ,,	1·82
Botanic Gds., Hobart 16 ,, ,,	1·37
Oatlands ,, 8 ,, ,,	0·74
Fingal ,, 10 ,, ,,	0·81
,, Killymoon 10 ,, ,,	0·51
Falmouth ,, 5 ,, ,,	0·44
Launceston ,, 19 ,, ,,	3·32
Low Head ,, 15 ,, ,,	3·08
Mount Bischoff ,, 31 ,, ,,	11·51
Circular Head ,, 23 ,, ,,	3·34
Gould's Country,, 12 ,, ,,	8·15
Clarence Plains ,, 5 ,, ,,	0·57

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

14th. Gooseberries commencing to break.

15th. Common elm commencing to flower.

18th. Elder commencing to break.

20th. Lombardy poplar, ditto.

20th. Horse-chestnut, ditto.

28th. Royal apricot commencing to flower.

Presentations to Museum :—

1. From Master C. Hood. A squirrel from China.

2. From Messrs. Hawkins and Co, Shipwrights' Point. Two fish (*Cyttus Australis*.)

3. From Mr. B. R. Dyer. Two specimens of the peculiar lizard (*Omolepida casuarina*).

[In a note which accompanied this presentation, Mr. Dyer remarks :—
“I send two fine specimens of the large, harmless, lizard, wrongly called by the majority of people in Tasmania the ‘Death Adder.’ While on the subject of lizards, could not a local be inserted in the *Mercury* and

other papers on behalf of the poor harmless so-called 'Guana' (Sleeping Lizard). In my many business callings over all parts of Tasmania I have found a general desire to destroy these reptiles under the erroneous impression that they are venomous. It is very generally admitted that the sleeping lizard (*Cyclodus nigrolutens*) will attack and kill snakes; and I can certainly, of my own experience, assert that they will kill *young* snakes. What a pity then to destroy them!"]

The Hon. Secretary read a paper contributed by Dr. E. T. Higgins and Mr. W. F. Petterd, entitled a "Description of a new species of *Mus*, with a list of the terrestrial animals of Tasmania."

Conversational discussion ensued, and the meeting closed with the usual vote of thanks to the authors of the paper and to the donors of presentations.

OCTOBER, 1883.

The monthly evening meeting of the Society was held on Monday, 8th October, Mr. C. H. Grant in the chair.

The Hon. Secretary (Mr. Barnard) brought forward the following returns for the month of September, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to Museum :—
On Sundays, 896 ; on week days, 735 ; total, 1,631.
2. Ditto to Gardens.—Total, 5,940.
3. Plants, etc., received at Gardens :—
From Lady Dry, 24 varieties of seeds from Ceylon.
From H. Low and Co., London, 1 case plants.
From Mr. C. F. Creswell, Melbourne, 26 plants.
4. Sent from Gardens :—
To Mr. C. F. Creswell, 1 case plants (various.)
5. Books and Periodicals received.
6. Presentations to Museum.

Meteorology :—

1. Hobart, from Captain Shortt, Government Observer, weather report for September.
2. From ditto, table of rainfall at various stations in Tasmania.
The following are the results of the Hobart observations :—
Barometer.—Mean. of three daily observations, 29·781in.
Thermometers.—Means. : Max. 58·4 ; Min., 42·3 ; dry bulb, 51·5 ; wet bulb, 47·1.
Humidity.—Dew point, 42·5 ; humidity, ·714 ; elastic force of vapour, ·272.

Condensation.—No. of days' rain, 11 ; amount collected, 1·99in.

Clouds.—Mean daily amount (0—10 scale) ; 6·7.

Wind.—Mean force, 2 (0—12) ; prevailing direction, N.W. and S.

Remarks.—The highest temperature in the shade was 69° on the 11th ; the lowest, 37·2, on the night of the 22nd. Highest recording of the barometer, 30·233in. at 9 a.m. on the 16th ; lowest, 28·840in., from 3 to 6 a.m. on the 3rd. The rainfall during the month was less than that of September, 1882, excepting in the S.E. portion of the colony, where it was greater. The heaviest fall registered in Hobart was 1·17in. on the 4th, and at Fingal 3¼in. on the 12th. A strong gale of wind blowing from the southward, on the 4th. In the latter part of the month the sky to the westward, for an hour or two after sunset, was illuminated with an unusually rose-tinted appearance, caused by the zodiacal light, seldom seen in the higher latitudes except at the beginning of spring to the westward, after sunset, and at the beginning of autumn to the eastward before sunrise. Earthquake shocks are still felt in the disturbed districts, the observers at Launceston and Falmouth report eight for the month.