

## JUNE.

The monthly evening meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Tuesday evening, June 9th, Mr. James Barnard, Vice-President, in the chair. A large number of Fellows were present, as well as several ladies. The following gentlemen, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were balloted for and declared duly elected Fellows of the Society, viz., Messrs. Alexander Macdonald Ritchie and T. B. Moore.

## DR. MILLIGAN'S BEQUESTS.

The CHAIRMAN said that at their last meeting he had the gratification of announcing the receipt of certain pecuniary bequests by the late Dr. Milligan to the Society. He was not then aware that in addition to those bequests Dr. Milligan had also made certain gifts of land, comprising three allotments of one acre each at Bicheno, and one town allotment of three acres at George Town. No doubt these would be of considerable value to the Society. In connection with this he would also say that the Council had thought that the best way to make acknowledgment of these liberal bequests would be to have a likeness of the deceased gentleman suspended in the Museum. They were indebted to Mr. Sprent for the enlarged photograph which they possessed, and which was on the table for the inspection of members. It was a very excellent likeness, as all those who knew Dr. Milligan would recollect.

The photograph, which had been enlarged in the Crown Lands Department, was handed round for the inspection of members.

The Hon. Secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns, viz.:—

1. Number of visitors to the museum during the month of May:—  
Week days, 1,372; Sundays, 1,000; total, 2,372.

2. Number of visitors to Royal Society's Gardens during the month of May, 5,600.

3. Plants and seeds received at and sent from the Royal Society's Gardens during the month of May, 1885:—

From the Acclimatisation Society, Queensland, case containing 25 plants.

From Mr. G. Brunning, St. Kilda, Victoria, case containing 45 plants.

From Baron Ferd. Von Mueller, Victoria, 135 packets seeds.

From Dr. R. Schomburgk, Adelaide, 25 packets South Australian seeds.

To Messrs. Law and Somner, Melbourne, 2 bags sphagnum moss.

To Mr. John Smith, Riddel's Creek, Victoria, 2 bags sphagnum moss

4. Time of leafing, flowering; and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Royal Society's Gardens during May, 1885:—

14th. Dutch medlars, commencing to ripen.

16th. *Diosma alba*, commencing to flower.

18th. *Photini serrulata*, commencing to flower.

20th. *Ailanthus glandulosus*, leaves all shed.

25th. *Laurustinus*, commencing to flower.

31st. *Jasminum nudiflorum*, in full flower.

## Meteorological Returns.

From the Government Observer, Captain Shortt, R.N., table of observations for May.

Additions to the library during the month of May:—

*Agricultural Gazette*, March 30, April 6, 13.

*American Agriculturist*, April.

*Annals and Magazine of Natural History*, April.

*Athenæum, The*, January, February, March.

Catalogue of the Passeriformes, or Perching Birds, in the collection of

the British Museum, "Fringilliformes," Pt. 1, containing the Families Dicæidæ, Hirundinidæ, Ampelidæ, Mniotiltidæ, and Motacillidæ. Vol. X. By R. Bowlder Sharpe. From the Trustees of British Museum.

Den Norske Nordhavs Expedition, 1876-78. XII. Zoologi, "Pennatulida," by D. C. Danielssen and J. Koren. XIII. Zoologi "Spongidæ," by Dr. G. A. Hansen. Christiana, 1884-85. From Prof. H. Mohn, *Entomologisk Tidsskrift*, April, 1884

*Gardeners' Chronicle*.

*Geological Magazine*, April.

*Journal of Science*, April.

Journal of the Royal Microscopical Society. Vol. 5. Pt. 2. April.

Monthly Notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. 45. No. 5. March.

*Nature*. Vol. 31. March.

New Zealand Journal of Science. No. 8 and 9. March and May.

Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia. Pt. III. Nov., Dec., 1884.

Primer of Tariff Reform, A. By D. A. Wells. From the Committee of the Cobden Club, London.

#### PRESENTATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

##### Mammals.

Two Tasmanian Tigers, *Thylacynus cynocephalus*, male and female, Messrs. French Bros.

One do. Tiger, do. do., male, Mr. F. Mace.

A Platypus, *Ornithorhynchus paradoxus*, Mr. W. E. Shoobridge.

Flying Squirrel, *Belideus* sp., Mr. T. Oakley.

##### Birds.

Little Penguin, *Eudyptula minor*, Mr. F. Selfe.

Grey-tailed Thickhead, *Pachycephala glaucura*, Mr. G. Hinsby.

Tasmanian Honeyeater, *Meliphaga Australasiana*, Capt. E. T. Wallack.

##### Fishes.

Native Freshwater Perch, *Microperca Tasmaniae*, Mr. J. Swan.

Parrot Fish, *Labrichthys* sp., Mr. R. M. Johnston.

##### Coins, etc.

1 Swedish krona, a 25 ore, a 10 ore, a 4 skilling (1842), a 5 cent., a dime, 2 Egyptian pennies. Specimen from the Bitter Lakes. Part of the keel of the Vega, Capt. Nordenskiöld, Sub-Inspector O. Hedberg.

##### Papers.

"Notes on the discovery of new species of leaf impressions from the Tertiary sandstones at Mount Bischoff, belonging to the genera *Eucalyptus*, *Laurus*, *Quercus*, *Zamia*, etc." By Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S.

In Mr. Johnston's paper he describes a number of new species of very interesting leaf impressions obtained by Mr. Kayser in sinking through Tertiary sandstone beds, which underlie the recent basalt at Mount Bischoff as it does at Breadalbane, One-Tree Point, Geilstone, and other places in Tasmania. Mr. Kayser is highly commended for his services to science in this matter, as he has by his painstaking energy added considerably to our knowledge of the Tertiary Flora of Tasmania. In the collection made by Mr. Kayser, Mr. Johnston recognises at least 10 new species belonging to the genera *Eucalyptus*, *Quercus*, *Laurus*, *Ulmus*, *Zamia*, and possibly the genera *Lomatia*, *Ceratopetalum*, and *Ficus*, are also represented. This, according to the writer of the paper, is most interesting, as it substantiates the opinions advanced by Baron von Ettingshausen and Baron Sir Ferd. von Müller, that the whole

existing vegetation of the world can in its development be traced to an universal flora in bygone geologic ages, and, therefore, in perfect accord with the evolution hypothesis. It is strange to observe that the prevailing forms of vegetation in Tasmania during the Tertiary period should be more closely allied to the existing flora of Europe than to the existing flora of Tasmania.

Mr. Johnston states that the species of *Eucalyptus* from Mount Bischoff named by him *E. Kayseri*, is the first indication of our most characteristic vegetation (the gum tree) which he has yet observed in a fossil state in Tasmania. *Quercus*, so abundantly represented in a fossil state at Mount Bischoff, is now restricted entirely to the Northern Hemisphere.

A Paper, entitled "The Tasmanian Earth tremors 1883-4-5," by Mr. A. B. Biggs, which was replied to by Captain Shortt, and Messrs. R. M. Johnston and W. H. Knight.

The following note on the determination of the coal plants of Tasmania, by Mr. T. Stephens, was read:—Some five years ago I submitted to the notice of the Royal Society specimens of *Glossopteris*, *Gangamopteris*, *Noeggerathiopsis*, with other forms not yet fully identified, from the Mersey coal measures, and shortly afterwards a fine collection from the same beds was presented by Mr. Hainsworth, of LaTrobe. At the time of the Calcutta Exhibition I sent a box of specimens from the same locality, together with a few from the Jerusalem basin, to Dr. Ottokar Feistmantel, Palæontologist of the Geological Survey of India, who is thoroughly conversant with the flora of all the Australian coalfields, and better able than any other living authority to settle questions concerning the relative age and affinities of the coal measures of Tasmania. In the correspondence which has followed, Dr. Feistmantel expressed his readiness to determine for us the species of our coal plants, and thus facilitate comparisons and conclusions which at present are necessarily made very much in the dark. In a letter received by the last mail he says:—"I don't want to publish anything about the subject before I have got again your opinion about the position of the Mersey beds in reference to the marine fossils. I intend, then, to publish figures and descriptions of the fossils you have sent: for this purpose I would be much obliged to you for any other fossils from the coal measures of Tasmania which you might be able to communicate to me, so that my memoir on the plant fossils of Tasmania might be more complete. When I wrote my first notices on the Australian fossil flora I had no sufficient information about the occurrence of *Glossopteris* in Tasmania." It is a long time since I have had any leisure to devote to the collection of geological specimens, and those which I possess from the southern and eastern coal measures are mostly in a fragmentary condition, having been obtained hurriedly from roadside cuttings, or the *debris* of coal workings, while traversing the country on horseback. I am, however, able to supply Dr. Feistmantel with a good collection from the Mersey basin, and shall be glad to do any thing in my power to send him one representing the other coal formations in Tasmania. If any of the Fellows of the Royal Society are willing to help in this direction, and will either send specimens to the Museum, or furnish the names of local collectors from whom they can be procured, they will materially aid in the accomplishment of an important work, which cannot be performed except by the transmission of a good representative collection to a competent authority.

#### EXHIBITS.

Mr. James Andrew produced a specimen of rock from the Kimberley district in South Africa in which the diamonds are found.

Mr. F. Belstead, of Launceston, sent a specimen of fossil wood obtained in the Ringarooma district.

SUGGESTIONS.

Mr. C. E. BEDDOME suggested that an alteration should be made in their third rule, and that the Governor of the colony should be made the honorary president or vice-patron, and that they should elect a president annually from the Council.

The CHAIRMAN was of opinion that it was not competent to the Fellows to adopt the change proposed, as it would contravene one of the fundamental principles of the Society, which had received the royal approval when the Queen became its patron, and confirmed the annual grant. The rules can be altered at any time, but certainly not the fundamental principles and constitution, and he therefore ruled that the proposed motion could not be entertained.

Mr. BEDDOME also suggested that certificates should be issued to honorary and corresponding members of the Society.

The CHAIRMAN said the Council would take that into consideration if Mr. Beddome would bring it under their notice.

The HON. SECRETARY, referring to the late election, as Honorary Members of the Society, of the Hon. W. Macleay, M.L.C., F.L.S., of Sydney, and E. Pierson Ramsay, Esq., F.R.S., E., F.L.S., the curator of the Sydney Museum, said he had sent them complimentary letters referring to the fact, and that it had since been noted in the newspapers.

VOTE OF THANKS.

On the motion of Colonel LEGGE, seconded by Mr. C. E. BEDDOME, a vote of thanks was passed to the donors of exhibits and the authors of papers.

EXHIBITION OF MOSSES.

Mr. R. A. BASTOW, with the aid of the microscope, exhibited a very interesting collection of specimens of Tasmanian mosses, which were greatly admired.

A vote of thanks to the chairman concluded the meeting.

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JULY.

The monthly evening meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Tuesday evening, Mr. James Barnard, Vice-president, occupying the chair. There were fifty-six Fellows in attendance, amongst those present being the Bishop of Tasmania (Dr. Sandford), the Acting-Chief Justice (Hon. W. R. Giblin), and several ladies.

Dr. A. Bingham Crowther and Mr. R. R. Rex were re-elected Fellows of the Society.

Owing to the indisposition of the Hon. Secretary, for whose absence the Chairman apologised, the Curator of the Museum brought forward the usual returns, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to the Museum during the month of June :—  
Week days, 1,155 ; Sundays, 570 ; total, 1,725.

2. Number of visitors to Royal Society's Gardens during the month of June, 4,550.

Plants and seeds received at and sent from the Royal Society's Gardens during the month of June, 1885 :—

From the Agri. Horti. Societies' Gardens, Madras. Seeds of *Podocarpus affinis*.