

Mr. E. D. Swan at Phillip Island, and he had it mounted and presented to the Museum. Attention was also drawn to a very pretty variety of an albino morepork, *Podargus cuvieri*, caught at Brighton.

On the table were exhibited three specimens of the brown trout, *Salmo fario*, caught at the Great Lake, their weight being 15, 14, and 13lb. respectively.

A specimen of quartz from Mount Morgan, Queensland, was shown.

#### SPECIAL MEETING.

At a special meeting, which was held on the same evening, an alteration of a formal character was made in rules 24 and 27, to enable meetings of the Council to be held without the presence of the hon. secretary, which has hitherto been held essential, and altering the date of the first meeting for the session.

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### MAY, 1885.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Tuesday evening, 12th May, Mr. James Barnard, V.P., in the chair, and several ladies were present. A very large number of Fellows were present. The following gentlemen, who had been previously nominated by the Council, were balloted for, and declared duly elected as Honorary Members of the society, viz.:—The Hon. William Macleay, F.L.S., M.L.C., etc., Edward Pierson Ramsay, F.R.S.E., F.L.S., etc., etc., Curator Australian Museum, Sydney. In proposing the former gentleman the hon. secretary (Dr. Agnew) referred to him as one of the first naturalists in the colonies, to whom they were indebted for very many favours. To the trustees of the Australian Museum and Mr. Ramsay, he said, they were under special compliment for valuable additions to their Museum. Mr. Ramsay had it in his power to be serviceable to them, and he had always exercised it in their favour. It was to the Trustees and him they were indebted for the valuable collection of New Guinea and other birds which were displayed on their table that evening.

#### A HANDSOME DONATION.

The CHAIRMAN said he had, on the part of the council, to make the gratifying announcement to the Fellows of the society that since their last meeting they had received from the executors of the late Dr. Joseph Milligan a legacy of £350, which was to be devoted to furthering the various objects of the society. (Applause.) Although it was nearly 30 years since Dr. Milligan quitted Tasmania for Europe, he had nevertheless taken a vivid interest in the affairs of the society, and this had culminated in his final act of bequeathing such a handsome legacy to the institution he loved so well. (Applause.) Those who had the privilege of enjoying the intimate acquaintance of Dr. Milligan while he was secretary of this society would remember the zeal with which he threw himself into the advocacy of the building of the museum. Through his instrumentality a large subscription was obtained, and the Government having given the site, which was originally part of the old Government House grounds, the present handsome building was the result. His zeal in the cause of science was well known. The first portion of the published transactions of the society were almost exclusively occupied with his report on the coalfields of Tasmania, which might even now be referred to with advantage by any one desiring to inform himself of the extent of the coal deposits in Tas-

mania. On all occasions Dr. Milligan had shown himself a lover of science, and in promoting the objects of this society especially. He (the chairman) would only point the moral by saying that such a life and example were worthy of all imitation. (Applause.)

The hon. secretary (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns, viz. :—

1. Number of visitors to the museum April—On Sundays, 960 ; on week days, 1,160 ; total, 2,120.

2. Number of visitors to Royal Society's Gardens. April—5,500.

Seeds received at the Royal Society's Gardens during the month of April, 1885 :—

From the Botanic Gardens, Madras, 16 packages seed.

From the Botanic Gardens, Saharanpur, N.W. India, seeds (*Abies dumosa*).

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

8th. Chinese Chrysanthemums commence to flower.

10th. Elm leaves commence to fall.

12th. Coe's fine late red plum commence to ripen.

15th. *Pyrus Aucuparia* leaves commence to fall.

24th. Black Mulberry leaves commence to fall.

28th. Seeds of Hornbeam ripe.

#### Meteorological Returns.

From the Government Observatory, Captain Shortt, R.N., table of observations for April, from Mr. F. Abbott.

Superintendent Royal Society's Gardens, register of rainfall for April.

Additions to the library during the month of April.

Adelaide University Calendar for the year 1885. From the University. Agricultural Gazette, March 9, 16, 23.

American Agriculturist, March, 1885.

Annals and magazines of Natural History, March 1885.

Bombay magnetical and meteorological observations for 1883.

Bulletin du Musee Royal D'Histoire, Naturelle de Belgique, Tome iii., 1884, No. 1.

Bulletin de la Societe Royale de.

Botanique de Belgique, Tome Vingt. From the Society.

Descriptive notes on Papuan Plants. From Baron F. von Mieller, K.C.M.G.

Etymological glossary, Latin and old English of the eighth century, photolithographed from the original M.S., by W. Griggs, and edited with transliteration, introduction and notes by Henry Sweet, M.A. From the Chief Secretary of Tasmania.

Fac-similes of the declaration of independence, and the treaty of Waitangi, New Zealand. From the Rev. Geo. Clarke.

Forest culture and eucalyptus trees, by Edward Cooper.

Fragmenta Phytographiæ Australiæ, pt. 2. From Baron F. von Mieller, K.C.M.G.

Gardeners' Chronicle, Feb. 28, March 7, 14, 21, 28.

Geological Magazine, March.

Index Perfectus ad Caroli Linnæi. Species Plantarum, Nomen Earum From Baron F. von Mieller, K.C.M.G.

Journal of Science, March.

Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India, vol. xxi., pts. 1, 2. (Palæontological Indica). Series xiii., vol. 1, pt. 4. Salt Range Fossils, by W. Wagen, pt. D., 1. Productus Limestone Fossils, iv. Brachiopoda, with plates, lviii., lxxxi. From the Geological Survey Department of India.

Medical Press and Circular, March 18, 1885.

Monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, vol. xlv., No. 4., February, 1885.

Monthly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office, London for November, 1884.

Nature, vol. 31, February.

Organic Constituents of Plants and Vegetable Substances and their Chemical Analysis, by Dr. G. C. Wittstein, translated by F. von Müller, F.R.S. From Baron von Müller, K.C.M.G.

Proceedings of the Geographical Society of Australasia, New South Wales and Victorian branches, with maps and illustrations, 1st session, 1883-4, vol. 1. From the Society.

Prodromus of the Zoology of Victoria, decade x., by Professor McCoy. From the Government Printer, Victoria.

Preussische Statistik, lxxix. From the Statistisches, Berlin.

Quarterly Weather Report, pt. 1, 1877. From the Society, London.

Tasmanian Statutes, vol. 4. From the Government.

Victorian Naturalist, March and April. From the Society.

Vital and Meteorological Statistics for April. From R. M. Johnston, Government Statistician.

Wattle Bark Report of the Board of Enquiry.

#### PRESENTATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

##### Mammals :

Two Black Opossums, *Phalangista fuliginosa*, Mr. J. McCluskey.

A Black Rat, *Antechinus swainsoni*, Dr. Coverdale.

Tiger Cat, *Dasyurus maculatus*, Mr. C. S. Agnew.

##### Birds :

New Holland Goshawk, *Astur novæ-hollandiæ*, Mr. Headlam.

Swamp Parakeet, *Pezoporus formosus*, Mr. Tabart.

Lewin's Rail, *Rallus Lewenii*, Dr. L. Holden.

Australian Gannet, *Sula Australis*, Mr. P. Seager.

Eagle Hawk, *Aquila audax*, Mr. ———

Native Companion, *Grus Australasianus*, Mr. Facy.

##### Fishes :

Two Salmon, *Salmo salar* (male and female), from the River Erne, Ireland, from the Salmon Commissioners, Tasmania.

Tasmanian Jack or Pike, *Lanicoperca mordax*, Mr. R. M. Johnston

##### Insects.

A Few Insects, Mr. J. McClymont.

A Collection of Beetles. Mr. Moore.

##### Shells.

*Pecten fumatus*, Mr. J. McClymont.

A Valve (*Limopsis tenisoni*), Mr. T. R. Atkinson.

##### Old Documents.

One Spanish Dollar, dated Hobart Town, July 10, 1823 (paper).

A Two Spanish Dollar, dated Hobart Town, March 25, 1823 (paper).

Paper Money, value 2s. 6d., Dr. E. J. Crouch.

##### Papers.

The continuation of the Hon. W. Macleay's paper, "Zoology of Australia."

A paper by Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., entitled "Notes regarding the Silurian Fossils of the Gordon Limestones, with generic descriptions and a specific list of the organisms already named and classified."

Mr. Johnston's paper contains a brief history of the silurian fossils

obtained from the Gordon limestones of Tasmania. Although 28 species have been named and classified by Mr. Salter, over 17 years ago, no descriptions of the species have yet been placed upon record, and hence the collection of fossils now in the society's Museum, originally obtained by the late Dr. Milligan, and supplemented by Mr. Chas. Gould in the year 1862, cannot be identified specifically. Mr. Johnston has arranged with R. Etheridge, jun., F.G.S., of the South Kensington Museum, London, to have Mr. Salter's collection fully described, and to facilitate reference in the meantime, among other particulars, the former has given a full description of the various genera, with a complete list of the species already named.

Mr. R. A. Bastow read a paper "On the identification of Tasmanian mosses, etc." The paper was intended to illustrate a hand-book on the Tasmanian mosses, a compiled list of all the genera he (Mr. Bastow) had prepared from Hooker's *Flora Tasmaniae* and other authorities of our mosses. The book was beautifully illustrated, and would be valuable to those who took an interest in the mosses to determine the genera they belonged to.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON bore testimony to the value of Mr. Bastow's work, saying that it would be of great assistance to anyone commencing a study of the mosses. No part of the world was so favourable to such a study as Hobart, in the vicinity of Mount Wellington.

Mr. C. H. GRANT said the thanks of the society were due to Mr. Bastow for his paper on this most interesting branch of the study of botany. No one could enter a mountain glade in Tasmania without seeing how particularly rich they were in mosses. England had been considered rich in them, but here they were in far greater luxuriance and beauty, and a hand-glass was quite sufficient to enable them to be fully inspected, without the aid of a microscope. If only a few people would apply themselves to the study here, new species would, he was sure, be very soon discovered. (Applause.)

A paper "On some new species of Tasmanian marine shells," by W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S., was read by the hon. secretary, Dr. Agnew.

#### Exhibits.

The Paradise birds, presented by the trustees of the Australian Museum, were a theme of admiration for their rich and exquisite colouring, and reflected great credit on Mr. J. A. Thorpe, the head taxidermist of the Sydney Museum, who had mounted them, and no doubt will prove a highly interesting addition to the museum.

Mr. Bastow exhibited, by the aid of the microscope, some beautifully mounted specimens of Tasmanian mosses, which proved of great attraction to the members present.

Lieut. C. E. Beddome stated that no doubt the Fellows were aware of the large shipment of salmon ova which had arrived during the last few days, and which had been deposited at the Ponds, and he was happy to inform them that about 50,000 eggs were alive and looking well. Accompanying the ova, was sent out two fine specimens of salmon, a male and female, which had been admirably preserved and mounted by Mr. Morton, the curator. The two fish were exhibited during the evening, the male weighed 30lbs., the female, 23lbs.

Votes of thanks to donors to the Museum, to authors of the papers read, and the chairman, brought a very pleasant evening to a close.