

ROYAL SOCIETY.

APRIL, 1885.

A monthly meeting of the Society—the first of the session of 1885—was held at the Royal Society's rooms, on Tuesday, April 14. There was a large attendance of Fellows. Mr. James Barnard, vice-president, occupied the chair.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows:—The Premier (Hon. Adee Douglas, M.L.C.), Mr. Justice Giblin; Messrs. E. Edmondson, Joseph Davies (Beaconsfield), H. J. Burnett, J. C. Hadley, G. H. Edwards, J. F. MacMullen, Arthur Butler, H. T. Maning, and the Rev. T. M. O'Callaghan.

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew), said that amongst the novelties laid on the table that evening was a catalogue of the library, prepared by the Curator, and which had long been a great desideratum, and it had been compiled now with such completeness that it would be a very valuable possession for some time to come. It was so arranged that any books received in the future could have their names inserted in the proper place. Mr. Morton deserved the greatest credit for the assiduity and ability which he had shown in the compilation of this very useful book, and thanks were not only due to him, but also to the Government for kindly allowing it to be printed at the Government printing office, and so saving the society a great deal of expense. The officers of the department, Messrs. Strutt and Grahame, had shown such an amount of attention, care, skill, and interest in the mechanical part of the work that he could hardly find words to thank them. An enormous amount of trouble had been occasioned by the printing of the work, but it was now in all probability placed in the hands of the Fellows in as perfect a form as possible. He moved,—“That the cordial thanks of the society be given to Mr. Morton for his compilation of the work, and also to Messrs. Strutt and Grahame for the part they had taken in its issue.” (Applause.)

Mr. C. P. SPRENT seconded the motion, which was carried unanimously with acclamation.

The HON. SECRETARY (Dr. Agnew) brought forward the usual returns, viz.:—

1. Number of visitors to the Museum:—January—On Sundays 640, on week days 1,892, total 2,532; do. February—On Sundays 742, on week days 1,324, total, 2,066; do. March—On Sundays 567, on week days 1,336, total, 1,896.

2. Number of visitors to Royal Society's Gardens:—January, 6,500; February, 6,000; March, 5,570

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

From Baron Ferd. von Mueller, 48 packets seeds.

From Messrs. Heyne Co., Adelaide, 4 packets seeds.

From Mr. C. F. Creswell, collection of imported bulbs, about 300 varieties.

From Miss Brumby, Old Beach, eight packets seeds.

From Messrs. Heyne Co., Adelaide, three packets boronia seeds.

From Baron Ferd Von Mueller, 14 packets seeds.

From Miss Woodin, seeds Japan Coniferæ and lily bulbs.

To Messrs. Law, Somner, Melbourne, two bags sphagnum moss.

To Mr. Wm. Bull, London, case containing ferns.
 To Dr. R. Schomburgh, Adelaide, sphagnum moss.
 From Messrs. A. Van Geert, Belgium, five bags abico seeds.
 From Mr. Wm. Bull, London, 32 packets seeds and bulbs.
 From Miss Woodin, 25 packets seeds from Japan, principally choice
 Coniferæ.

Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in
 the Royal Society's gardens during March 1885 :—

- 8th. Seckle pear commencing to ripen.
- 10th. Tips of hornbeam commencing to turn brown.
- 12th. Coe's golden drop plum ripe.
- 14th. Tips of elm turning yellow.
- 17th. Horse chestnut leaves turning brown.
- 18th. Ash leaves commencing to fall.
- 25th. Oak leaves commencing to fall. *Acorus* ripe.
- 10th. *Veronica angustifolia* in flower.
- 14th. Royal apricot commence to ripen.
- 16th. *Grevillea robusta* in full flower.
- 19th. Jargonelle pear ripe.
- 24th. Black mulberries commence ripen.
- 1st. Windsor pear commence to ripen.
- 3rd. *Bon chretien* commence to ripen.
- 14th. Blackberries commence to ripen.
- 25th. Ash commencing to shed seed.
- 28th. Sycamore commencing to shed seed.

METEOROLOGICAL RETURNS.

From the Government observer, Capt. Shortt, R.N., table of obser-
 vations for January, February, and March. From Mr. F. Abbott,
 superintendent of the Royal Society's Gardens, register of rainfall for
 January, February, and March.

Additions to the Library during the months January, February,
 March :—

Acta Horti Petropolitani Tomus VIII., IX, Fasciculus I.-II., from
 the society.

Administration's report of the Meteorological Reporter to the
 Government of Madras for the years 1883-1884, from the Meteorological
 Department, India.

Agricultural Gazette, December, 1884 ; January, February, 1885.

American Agriculturist.

Annals de la Societe, Malacologique de Belgique, Tome XIV., XV.,
 XVI., from the society.

Annals and Magazines of Natural History, January and February,
 1885.

Annual Report of the Surgeon-General U.S. Army, 1884.

Annual Report of the Curator of the Museum of Comparative
 Zoology at Harvard College, 1883-4, from L. Agassiz.

Annual Report of the Chief Signal Officer to the Secretary of War.
 Part 1 and 2. Washington, from the War department.

Archives du Musee Teyler, serie II., Troisième partie, Deuxieme par-
tie, from the society.

Astronomical and meteorological observations, year 1878-79, Wash-
 ington, from the U.S. Naval Observatory.

Athenæum, The, December, 1884.

Bericht des Verines für Naturkunde, XXIX., XXX., from the so-
 ciety.

Boletin de la Academie National, Tome VI., from the society.

Bulletin of International Meteorology, January to August, 1883,
 Washington, from the War department.

Bulletin of the Essex Institute, January, February, March, 1882, from the society.

Bulletin of the Buffalo Society of Nat. Sciences, vol. IV., No. 2, Buffalo, from the society.

Catalogue of zoological works, comprising ichthyology, etc. Catalogue of ornithology, mammalia, etc. Catalogue of entomology, from J. Wheldon and Co.

Catalogue of papers and works relating to the mammalian orders, marsupialia, and monotremata, from J. J. Fletcher, Esq., M.A.B. Sc.

Catalogue of superior second-hand books, J. Sotheran & Co.

Catalogue of the Australian Hydroid zoophytes, by W. Bale, Esq., from the trustees Sydney museum.

Catalogue of the choicest portion of the Lyston Park Library, from B. Quaritch, Esq.

Chronologie geologique, la., from E. Dupont, Esq.

Charts of relative storm frequency for a portion of the Northern Hemisphere. Charts and tables showing geographical distribution of rainfall in the U.S., from the War Department, Washington.

Colonies and India, The, January 16, 1885. Comparative vocabularies of the Indian tribes of British Columbia, with map, from A. R. C. Selwyn, Esq.

Compte-rendu de excursion, etc., D. Ræymaekers.

Daily bulletin of meteorological observations, from the Meteorological Observatory, Washington.

Descriptive sketch of the physical geographical geology of the Dominion of Canada, from A. R. C. Selwyn, Esq.

Essex Institute, historical collection, vol. XIX., from the society.

Gardener's Chronicle, December, 1884, January, February, 1885. Geology of Wisconsin, Vol. IV., I., 1873-79. From H. H. Bennett, Esq.

Geological Magazine, January, February, 1885. Goldfields of Victoria, the reports of the Mining Registrars, 1884. From the Department of Mines.

Government Statist's Report on the Vital Statistics of Melbourne and Suburbs, 1884. From the Government Statist.

Hourly Readings, 1881, No. 51, Part 3. From the Meteorological Office, London.

International simultaneous meteorological observations and charts, from the War Department, Washington.

Indian meteorological memoirs, vol. II., III., 1884, from the Meteorological Office, Calcutta.

Instructions for making meteorological observations, prepared for use in China, from the Government Astronomer.

Journal of the Statistical Society of London, part 1 to 4., vol. XLVI.; part 1, vol. XLVII.; part 1, vol. XLVIII., 1883-4.

Journal of the Linnean Society of London, Nos. 126 to 133, vol. XX, 1883 4; Nos. 97 to 102, vol. XXIII., 1883-4.

Journal of the Royal Historical and Archæological Association of Ireland, Vol. VI., 4th series 1883. Nos. 53 to 56.

Journal of the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain and Ireland, Vol. XVI., parts 1, 2, 3, 1884, new series

Journal of the Society of Arts, Vol. XXXI., Nov. 1882 to Nov., 1883.

Journal of the Microscopical Society, Vol. IV., part 6, December, 1884, February, 1885.

Journal and Proceedings of the Hamilton Association 1882-3, Vol. 1, part 1.

Journal of Science, January, February, March.

List of the Fellows of the Linnean Society of London, October, 1883.

List of the Fellows of the Zoological Society of London, 1883.

- List of the Fellows of the Geological Society of London.
- List of the vertebrated animals in the Zoological Society of London, 8th edition, 1883.
- Marine Annelids of the order Serpulia: some observations on their anatomy, with the characteristics of the Australian species. By W. A. Haswell, Esq., B. Sc. From the author.
- Memoirs of the Royal Astronomical Society of London. Vol. 47, 1882-83.
- Memoirs of the Boston Society of Natural History. Vol. III., No. VI., 1883. Vol. III., No. VII., 1883.
- Memoirs of the Geological Survey of India. Palæontologia Indica series X., vol. II., pt. 5.
- Meteorological and physical observations in the East Coast of British America.
- Meteorological observations made at the Adelaide Observ. and other places in South Australia, 1882.
- Medical and Surgical History of the War of the Rebellion. Pt. III. Surgical vol.
- Meteorological observations, Wellington, New Zealand, December, January, February, from the Government astronomer.
- Melanges Geologique et Malacologiques, from D. Ræymaeker, Esq. Midland Medical Miscellany, The; vol. 4, No. 38, from the society.
- Monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society, vol. XLV., No. 1, November, 1884, No. 2, December, 1884, from the society.
- Monthly weather review (general) weather service of the United States, January to October, 1883, from the War Department, Washington.
- Monthly weather report of the Meteor. office, London, for September, 1884, from the Meteor. office.
- Monthly weather report, June, July, August, October, 1884, London, from the Meteor. Department.
- Monthly record meteorology, Victoria, November and December, 1884, from R. L. Ellery, Esq.
- Motions of fluids and solids on the earth's surface, No. VIII., from the War Department, Washington.
- Nature, vol. 31, December, 1884; vol. 31, January, 1885.
- Pamphlets (15), from the Societe Americaine de France.
- Popular Essays on the Movements of the Atmosphere, No. XII., Washington, from the War Department.
- Proceedings of the Zoological Society of London, part I. to IV., 1883; part I., 1885.
- Proceedings of the Royal Geographical Society of London, vol. V., VI., 1883-4.
- Proceedings of the Linnean Society of London, November, 1882, to June, 1883.
- Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institution of Great Britain, vol. X., part I.-II.
- Proceedings of the Davenport Academy of Natural Sciences, vol. III., No. 1, vol. 3, parts 2-3.
- Proceedings of the Canadian Institute (Toronto), vol. I, No. 34.
- Proceedings of the American Association for the Advancement of Science, Salem, from the society.
- Proceedings of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences, new series, vol. IX., June, 1881, to June, 1882; vol. X., whole series, XVIII., May, 1882, to May, 1883.
- Proceedings of the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, pts. 1, 2, 3. January to December, 1883.
- Proceedings of the Boston Society of Natural History, vol. XXI., pt. 4, January to April, 1882; vol. XXII., May to November, 1882.

Proceedings of the American Philosophical Society, vol. XX., June to December, 1882; vol. X., January to April, 1883, May to October, 1884.

Proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, vol. IX., pt. 4.

Proceedings of the Yorkshire Geological and Polytechnic Society, new series, vol. VIII., pt. 3. From the societies.

Preis-Verzeichniss, Chemischer, etc., from Dr. Krantz.

Quarterly journal of the Geological Society, London, vol. 39, parts 2, 3, 4, 1883, vol. 40, parts 1 and 2, 1884, from the society.

Quarterly weather report for 1878. Appendices and plates, London, from the Meteor. Office.

Quelques observations from D. Ræymaekers, Esq.

Records of the geological survey of India, vol. 18, part 1, 1885, from the Geological Survey Office.

Report of the British Association for the advancement of science, from the society.

Report on the results of dredging, "Report in the Blake Echini," vol. XXIV., part 1, by A. Agassiz, Esq., from A. Agassiz, Esq.

Report of the Technological, Industrial, and Sanitary Museum, Sydney, for 1884, from the society.

Royal Colonial Institute, report and proc. Vol. 14, 1882-83, from the society.

Rules of the Linnean Society of New South Wales, and list of the members. February, 1885, from the society.

Rheinisches Mineralien-comptoir (4 pamphlets), from Dr. Krantz.

Signal Service Tables of Rainfall and Temperature compared with the crop production, No. 10, from War Department, Washington.

Smithsonian Report for 1881, from the society.

Studies on the Elasmobranch Skeleton. By W. A. Haswell, Esq., B. Sc., from the author.

Statistical Register of the colony of Victoria for 1883, and index, from the Government Statist.

Tickle's Colonial Export, Prices Current, and Trade Review.

Transactions of the Institution of Engineers and Shipbuilders in Scotland, vol. 26, 1882-83, from the society.

Transactions and proceedings of the Royal Society of South Australia, vol. VIII. for 1883-4, from the trustees.

Verein für Naturkunde zu Kassel, from the society.

Verhandlungen des Naturhistorischen Vereines der preussischen Rheinlande und Westfalens, by Dr. C. J. Andra. Zweite Hälfte, 1882. Erste Hälfte, 1883. Zweite Hälfte, 1883, from the society.

Victorian Year Book for 1883-4, by Mr. H. H. Hayter, from the author.

Victorian Naturalist, January, February, March, 1885, from the society.

Vital and Meteorological Statistics of Hobart and Launceston, from the Government Statist.

Washington Astronomical and Meteorological Observations, Vols. XXV., XXVI., 1878-9, from the Meteorological Dept.

Wood Pavement Board Report—Minutes of Proceedings and Appendix, Sydney, New South Wales, 1884, from Professor A. Liversidge.

PRESENTATIONS TO THE MUSEUM.

Mammals.

Golden-bellied beaver rat, *Hydromys chrysogaster*, Master A. Swan.

Golden-bellied beaver rat, *Hydromys chrysogaster*, Mr. Propsting.

Kangaroo rat, *Hypsiprymnus apicalis*, Mr. R. Alomes.

Hairy echidna, *Echidna setosa*, Mr. Flexmore.

Skull of native tiger, *Thylacinus cynocephalus*, Mr. Wilson.

Birds.

Nankeen crane, *Nycticorax caledonicus*, Mrs. John Lord.
 Skua Gull, *Lestris cataractes*, Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A.
 White-fronted falcon, *Falco lunulatus*, Mr. C. C. Nairn.
 New Holland Goshawk, *Astur novæ-hollandiæ*, Mr. H. Stannard.
 Australian Goshawk, *Astur approximans*, Mr. E. C. Wright.
 Australian Goshawk, *Astur approximans*, Mr. C. Meredith.
 Collection of New Zealand bird skins, Mr. A. F. B. Hull.
 Red-capped Dottrel, *Hiaticula ruficapilla*, Mr. C. Blyth.
 Little Penguin, *Spheniscus minor*, Mr. Propsting.

Reptiles.

Diamond snake of Tasmania, or copper head of Victoria, *Hoplocephalus superbus*, Mr. E. D. Swan.
 The Tiger snake, *Hoplocephalus curtus*, Mr. Geo. Hinsby.
 Diamond snake, *Hoplocephalus superbus*, Mr. J. E. McClymont.

Fishes.

The Thresher or Fox Shark, *Alopias Vulpes*, Mr. John Swan.
 Three Elephant Fish, *Callorhynchus antarcticus*.
 Stone-lifter or Catfish, *Kathetostoma læve*.
 Porcupine Fish, *Chilomycterus jaculiferus*.
 Sea Horse, *Hippocampus abdominalis*, Mr. F. Self.
 A collection of the Freshwater Herring or Cucumber Fish, *Prototroctes maræna*, Mr. John Swan.

Shells.

Haliotis nævosa, Mr. H. Haywood.
 An Octopus, Mr. F. Self.

Insects.

A moth, Mr. J. Northcote.
 Two moths, *Cossus* sp., Mr. E. Palmer.
 A moth, *Cossus* sp., Mr. C. H. Lovett.
 Orthopterus insect, Mr. Maning.
 A moth, Rev. Mr. Wilson.
 A collection of insects, Mr. J. McCance.

Old Newspapers, etc.

A collection of English papers, Mr. Justin McC. Browne.
 The *Samoan Reporter*, 1847, Rev. H. Freeland.
 Promissory note, value 3d., Hobart Town, 1825.
 Programme of the 12th anniversary regatta, Hobart, November 30, 1849, Mr. W. H. Buckland.
 One guinea (paper) on the Falkirk Union Bank, October, 1812, Mrs. Geo. Hinsby.

PAPERS.

The Hon. Secretary, Dr. AGNEW, stated he had received a letter from Baron Von Müller, accompanied with a most elaborate paper entitled "The Zoology of Australia," written by that distinguished scientist of Sydney, New South Wales, the Hon. W. Macleay, F.L.S. The paper, the Baron stated, was written at his request for a great forthcoming work in Germany, but as it contained some very valuable information, the Baron thought it was highly important that it should appear in its original English before leaving for Germany. As the paper embraced 51 pages of foolscap, only a part of it was read.

Col. LEGGE, in answer to an appeal from the hon. sec., said the review was a very interesting one. The most salient point about the region was that the great family order of the Woodpecker was totally absent from it, and it was the only region in the world similarly situated. He also referred to the great number of Petrels in the region. The subject, in his opinion, had been very exhaustively treated in the paper which had been read.

Mr. E. D. SWAN said the absence of the Woodpecker was, according to Gould, owing to the Australian trees shedding their bark, so that the beaks of the birds would not be required to bore into the trees to get insects for food.

Col. LEGGE said it would be very interesting to acclimatise them here and see the result.

A paper by Mr. A. B. Biggs, Launceston, entitled "The Lunar Eclipse of 30-31st March, 1885." The paper was not long, but of great interest to those who pay particular interest in astronomical studies.

A paper, by R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., on the character and relationship of the upper palæozoic and mesozoic formations of Tasmania, and the associated diabasic rocks, illustrated by specimens collected by him in various parts of the colony, and an account of a collection of ferns made by Mr. J. R. McClymont at the Cascades.

Prior to reading his paper on the character and relationship of the Upper Pal. and Mesozoic formations of Tasmania, with the diabasic rocks, Mr. Johnston announced that he had discovered at Porter Hill, near Hobart, an important series of beds, showing a gradual transition upwards, without stratigraphical break of any kind, from the common limestone restricted to marine organisms, to fine sandy shales where the marine organisms have altogether disappeared, with the exception of a minute ostracod. These upper beds are replete with plant remains, chiefly of ferns, allied to the genera — Gangamopteris, Cyclopteris, and possibly Pecopteris. The fossiliferous marine limestones and mudstones, replete with the common forms belonging to the genera Stenopora, Protoretapora, Fenestella, Spirifera, Strophalosia, Terebratula, etc., are followed by thin passaged beds of alternating dark brown sandstones and friable shales, where most of the common lower forms disappear, with the exception of Spirifer Tasmaniensis and P. Darwinii. In these shales a species of Cythere swarms in the greatest number, together with species belonging to the genera Modiolopsis, Tellinomya, and Theca. In these latter beds also the plant remains referred to begin to make their appearance, and in the uppermost shales the plant remains, and an occasional Cythere, with the articulated spines, probably of a species of Ichthyodorulites alone are to be found. Mr. Johnston is of opinion that these upper beds with plant remains are the equivalents of the Tasmanite stage of the upper marine beds of the Mersey.

Mr. JOHNSTON also announced that Mr. McClymont had kindly forwarded to him for the society's collection the following interesting ferns from the Cascades, Tasman's Peninsula, viz.:—*Lomaria patersoni*, *L. lanceolata*, *L. procera*, *L. discolor*, *Polypodium billardieri*, *Aspidium capense*, *Grammitis australis*, *Hymenophyllum rarum*, *H. crispatum*.

Mr. R. A. BASTOW read a paper entitled "*Jungermannia reticulata*." This interesting paper was accompanied with some beautifully-mounted specimens shown by the microscope.

The Superintendent and Inspector of Fisheries, Mr. SAVILLE-KENT, F.L.S., F.Z.P., exhibited and made remarks upon the ova and living fry of the Cucumber Mullet, Herring, or Grayling (*Prototroctes macræna*). The eggs taken and artificially impregnated from fish caught in the Mersey, at Labrobe, were rapidly hatching out in his aquarium. A period of precisely three weeks had elapsed from the collection of the eggs and the appearance of the first fish, the "eyed" condition of the ova having been entered upon on the expiration of the first fortnight. The artificial impregnation or collection of the eggs of this fish not having been previously accomplished it was a point of interest to ascertain whether they were deposited by the parent among the gravel in the river bed, as is the case with the Salmon Trout, and European Grayling (*Thymallus*), or whether, as obtains with another allied form, the

European Cucumber Smelt (*Osmerus*), they are deposited upon and adhere to solid substances, such as submerged rocks or timber, as has been suspected by some authorities. The experiment made had resulted in determining that the eggs were non-adherent, and sunk to the bottom of the water immediately on exclusion. A remarkable feature of these eggs was their excessively small size, they not exceeding individually a millimetre in diameter, so that over 600 might be contained in a single even layer having the dimensions of one square inch. As compared with the eggs of the salmon and trout it had been observed that the developing embryo occupied a much larger portion of the cavity of the egg, the yolk sac being almost completely absorbed in the liberation of the young fish. There is in consequence no semi-inactive or "alevin" stage with this species as found in the trout and salmon, the fry on emergence being remarkably slender and buoyant, and swimming actively towards the surface of the water. A more exhaustive technical paper upon the development of this species was promised by Mr. Saville-Kent at a later date. The success he had obtained in the culture of the several hundred fry then in his possession made him altogether sanguine concerning future operations that would be undertaken of rearing them on an extensive scale for the re-stocking of our Southern rivers.

Mr. Sprent laid on the table some copies of a geological map of Tasmania, prepared at the Crown Lands department. The work was initiated at the request of the Hon. N. J. Brown, Minister of Lands and Works, and was intended to accompany the "Crown Lands Guide" issued by the department. It has frequently been represented to the Government that Mr. Gould's maps and reports should be republished for general information, but as to do so would entail a great amount of unnecessary labour, it was decided to embody Mr. Gould's work in a general map, and to incorporate therein all the most reliable information obtainable from other sources. Mr. Sprent, finding that Mr. R. M. Johnston was independently engaged upon the preparation of a descriptive account of the geology of Tasmania, agreed to join forces with that gentleman. Several gentlemen, on being consulted, agreed to give information, but a great difficulty was experienced in reconciling statements, it was determined to prepare a map from the materials at hand, and then distribute it amongst these who were likely to take an interest in adding to and correcting it. The map now issued does not claim to be a reliable record of ascertained geological facts; it is put forward rather as a guide, and as an incentive to further work in the same direction; there being no complete geological survey of Tasmania, it is impossible to attain to more than approximate accuracy. The authors therefore offer this map as their contribution towards a future and more elaborate work. It will be found to give a clear and fairly accurate delineation of the leading geological features of the colony as far as it is possible to delineate them upon a map of small scale.

Mr. Johnston is now engaged upon the letterpress portion of the work, but as it is necessarily a work of his spare hours it will not be ready for some months yet.

In the meantime Mr. Johnston and Mr. Sprent will be grateful to any gentlemen who will furnish them with information that may be made available for another edition of the map.

Mr. E. D. SWAN exhibited an albatross' egg *Diomedea exulans*. This egg was collected during the cruise of the *Erebus* and *Terror* at Campbell Island, lat. 52deg. 33min. S., long. 169deg. 9min. E., in the year 1840; weight, 17½ oz.

The Curator drew attention to a beautiful mounted specimen of a copper-headed snake of Victoria. This specimen had been captured by

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.

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-