

subdivision names of Europe will not fit the known divisions of Tasmanian rocks, and accordingly with Professor Hutton and others, would prefer local names for the sub-divisions of rocks later than the English "carboniferous." He also pointed out dangers to true classification which may arise by ignoring the facts of local stratigraphy, when dealing with imperfect fossil remains. He urges that questions of local stratigraphy should not be divorced from local palæontology, and that the association of the stratigraphy and palæontology of one hemisphere, is not always a safe guide in the determination of the actual association, in the other hemisphere of stratigraphy and palæontology.

Mr. C. H. GRANT thanked Mr. Johnston, on behalf of the Fellows, for the very valuable paper he had read to the Society. It showed very deep research and careful reading amongst the best authorities, a large number of whom were quoted. He was pleased to see how thoroughly and philosophically Mr. Johnston treated the subject of geology, as in his earlier writings he had a far more positive manner of treating the subject. The paper would be of great value to the records, and he trusted would be only one part of the great work on geology which he understood Mr. Johnston was preparing. (Hear, hear.) It hardly admitted of discussion, but he thought they should express their satisfaction at such a valuable foundation for the study of geology in Tasmania. (Applause.)

Mr. C. P. SPRENT referred to the application which had recently been made to the Government to put a sum of money on the estimates to assist deep sinking, and said that though that might be very desirable, the most important thing they could do was to ascertain the value of the coal deposits of the colony, especially on the extensive plain between Ben Lomond and the Western Tiers. He thought a series of borers should be put down across the plain, and that they should also have a first-class man from New South Wales who was used to the coal formations there to make an enquiry into the matter. Only within the last few days they had found coal cropping up at Longford, and very important results might follow from such action. Last year Mr. Cosmo Newbery was over here, and was speaking about the same thing, as well as of the value of their building stone, pointing out that both articles were likely to be found in the same locality, and that anyone finding a quarry of white stone in a practicable position would have a better thing than any tin mine or gold mine that had been found in Tasmania. He thought something ought to be done in the matter. He had tried to get the authorities to move in it, but they had so many important things to look after now they had not been able to give it attention. He thought the Society might use its influence in this direction. (Hear, hear.)

The CURATOR and Mr. STEPHENS also referred in complimentary terms to the paper,

The CHAIRMAN promised, on behalf of the Council, that the Society's influence should be used in the direction indicated by Mr. Sprent.

Mr. JOHNSTON briefly returned thanks.

3. Description of two apparently new species of genus *Ancillaria*, by W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S., was read by the Curator.

#### AUSTRALIA OR AUSTRALASIA.

The following paper was read by Colonel A. CRAWFORD :—

There is a matter that, I conceive, certainly comes within the range of subjects of which our association takes cognisance, and to which many circumstances combine, in my humble opinion, to render its immediate and careful attention most desirable. In the hope that my views may win the approval and support of the Royal Society, I will ask you kindly to read this note at its next meeting, trusting

that steps may then be taken to obviate the hazard that to me appears imminent. We are living in the expectation that at a very near date the majority of the Australian colonies—may we not hope all?—will become federated, and assume a higher position before the world in the dignity and strength that unity confers. Under what title, what cognomen, shall we claim our place among the nations of the earth? At the first glance, the query might to many appear trivial, and they would probably feel inclined to waive it as one on which they are in no way called upon to decide, whilst they might also consider it will doubtless be satisfactorily dealt with by the Federal Council at its first session. But I am sure that our Society will agree with me that every individual in these lands is or should be interested in the question of our future style and title, and that it shall be both euphonious and correct, and if I can show that a great risk does exist of our being made to appear under a designation every way inappropriate, I think the Royal Society will not hesitate to call public attention to the fact, and bring the weight of its opinion to bear upon the same. I doubt not it will have been noticed by many that in the numerous despatches and telegrams that of late have been passing between the Imperial Government and the Australian Governments relative to federation, two words constantly appear as designating this portion of the globe “Australia” and “Australasia,” and they seem to be used by all parties alike as convertible terms, frequently presenting themselves in the same document as, if so used, for the purpose of avoiding tautology. A little reflection, however, will show that these terms are by no means one and the same. Their signification differs *in toto*. “Australia,” whilst musical and pleasing to the ear, places at once before the mind the idea of a large and noble southern land, and therefore may be regarded as adequately representing this great portion of Her Majesty’s dominions. “Australasia,” on the other hand, whilst it might reasonably be applied to Burmah, Siam, Cochin-China, or even India, has in reality no true geographical significance in connection with our great island continents and its sister isles of Tasmania and New Guinea. Let it be remembered that Australia (I cling to that term) is separated from Asia and its islands by an ocean of soundings so deep as effectually to prohibit chance intercourse, and so nature has, in her own unmistakable language, proclaimed these countries by their peculiar fauna and flora to be a distinct region. Why, then, should we in any way, in name at least, allow ourselves to be looked upon as a species of dependency or excrecence of Asia? Poor relations, perhaps. Whilst our real and only debt to that quarter of the world is limited probably to a few stray cocoanuts, drifted by wind and tide to our northern shores. There would be more reason exhibited in calling Africa Austral-Europe” than in denominating these colonies “Australasia,” for a reference to the map will at once show that the meridians of longitude within which Australia is comprised are those that mark only the extreme eastern portion of Asia, so that, strictly speaking, Austral does not accurately describe our position in respect to that continent. I will not enlarge further on these points. The little I have said will, I think, suffice to prove that “Australia” is alone the befitting title for this great division of the British realm; and, hoping that the meeting may fully concur in this opinion, I will conclude my note by begging the chairman and members to take immediate action thereon, for if anything is to be done it should be done promptly. A draft of a Federal Council Adoption Bill, prepared by the Premier of Queensland, has been received by the Cabinet, and will no doubt be speedily submitted to Parliament. Whether that bill contains any generic term for our federated provinces I can only conjecture, but

whilst we still have the opportunity let us do what we can to insure for our united states a name to which no just exception shall hereafter be made.

Colonel CRAWFORD added that just as the name Hobart Town was altered to Hobart, so the opportunity of federation should be taken to adopt the more euphonious name of Australia for the group.

Mr. JUSTIN MCC. BROWNE called attention of the Fellows to a series of interesting articles in *Notes and Queries*, which appeared a few months since on the subject of the use of the words Australia and Australasia.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON said that statisticians used the term Australasia to mean the Continent of Australia, and the Islands of New Zealand and Tasmania.

Mr. E. D. SWAN: And Fiji.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON: When such a term was generally used, it would require very great courage to suggest any alteration. It was, however, one which would very fairly come within the scope of the dealings of the Federal Council.

Mr. J. B. WALKER said they were indebted to a Frenchman President De Broses for the term Australasia, he having conferred it in 1756. He had brought down a book "*Histoire des Navigations aux Terres Australes*," Paris, 1756, showing the charts of that day for the inspection of the Fellows. Australia now, as he understood it, was used for the Continent, and Australasia for the larger group. He did not know whether the shorter term being more euphonious would be sufficient reason for altering it.

Colonel CRAWFORD: But we have nothing to do with Asia at all. If you have anything call it South-eastern Asia. It makes me writhe to think of the incongruity. A Frenchman may have introduced the word, but I won't be guided by any Frenchman. (Laughter.) A century ago, too—what did he know about it? (Renewed laughter.) Let us use our own commonsense. We are famous for misnomers in this island.

The CHAIRMAN said no doubt the Colonel's remarks would elicit discussion and call attention to the subject, and so he would attain the object he had in view.

#### EXHIBITS.

The CHAIRMAN drew attention to a further donation of a collection of mounted birds, received from the Trustees of the Sydney Museum. Among them was particularly noticeable two species of the handsome Racquet-tailed Kingfisher (*Tanysyptera galatea*, and *Dana*.)

The CURATOR drew attention to a fish he had received from Mr. D. Whitehouse. It was known as the Frost Fish of New Zealand (*Lepidopus caudatus*); the specimen was captured near the wharf, swimming about the surface.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON drew attention to a fine specimen of a bream (*Girella* sp.) that he had obtained during the month; he was of opinion that the species, simplex and tricuspidata, would turn out to be identical with each other.

4. The CURATOR drew attention to a specimen of a kingfisher shot at Cambridge; the bird, although not included in "*Gould's Handbook*" or "*Krefft's Fauna of Tasmania*," has been occasionally shot and seen in Tasmania; it is known in Australia as the Sacred Kingfisher (*Halcyon sanctus*).

#### ORNITHOLOGY.

The CURATOR stated that the Council of the Royal Society had received during the month a letter from the President of the Intercolonial Permanent Ornithological Committee, Vienna, which