

## OCTOBER, 1884.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Monday, October 13. Mr. James Barnard, vice-president, occupied the chair. A large number of Fellows were present.

Mr. J. W. Clunies Ross, B. Sc., F.G.S., Etc., Etc., London, was introduced as a visitor.

## NEW FELLOWS.

The following gentlemen having been previously nominated by the Council, were duly elected as Fellows of the Society:—Messrs. A. Giblin, A. J. Robertson, A. I. Clark, and A. Morton.

## RETURNS, ETC.

The hon. secretary brought forward the usual returns, viz.:—

1. Number of visitors to the Museum, September—Week days, 1,330; Sundays, 740; total, 2,070.

2. Number of visitors to Gardens, 6,220.

3. Plants and seeds received at the Royal Society's Gardens during the month of September. From the Botanic Gardens, Port Natal, 38 packets of seed. From Mr. James Grant, Sydney, 30 do. do.

4. Time of leafing, flowering, and fruiting of a few standard plants in the Royal Society Gardens during September, 1884.

15. Common ash, commencing to break.

15. Grape vines commencing to break.

16. Oaks generally commencing to break.

21. Moutan pæony in full flower.

22. Horse chestnut, commencing to flower.

23. Robinia pseudo acacia commencing to break.

20. Sycamore commencing to break.

30. Common plane tree commencing to break.

List of additions to the library, September, 1884:—

The sixty-fourth report of the Council of the Leeds Philosophical and Literary Society. From the Society.

Le Congo Depuis L'Equateur Jusqu'à L'Océan. From the Institut National De Géographie, Bruxelles.

Records of the Geological Survey of India, vol. xvii., pt. 3, 1884. From the Geological Survey Office, Calcutta.

Bombay Magnetical and Meteorological Observations, 1879 to 1882. From the Meteorological Office, Bombay.

Appendix to the above. From the Meteorological Office, Bombay.

Nature, vol. 30, July, 1884.

Athenæum, July, 1884.

Florist and Pomologist, August 11.

Journal of the Society of Arts, July 4, 11, 18, 25, August 1.

Geological Magazine, August, 1884.

Journal of Science, August, 1884.

Annals Magazines of Natural History, August 4, 1884.

*Agricultural Gazette*, August 4, 1884.

*Gardeners' Chronicle*, August 9, 1884.

1. Extract from the proceedings of the Victoria Institute. Annual meeting, 1884. Speech of Sir J. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., F.R.S.

2. Address to the geographical section of the British Association, by Sir J. H. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., F.R.S. From Sir J. H. Lefroy, K.C.M.G., etc.

Monthly notices of the Royal Astronomical Society. Vol. XLIV., No. 8, June 1884. From the Society.

Monthly record meteorological observations, May, Melbourne Observatory. From R. L. J. Ellery, Government Astronomer.

S. Mullen's *Monthly Circular*, September.

The *Gardeners' Chronicle*, August 16, 23, 30, 1884.

The *Agricultural Gazette*, August 16, 25, 1884.

The *New Zealand Journal of Science*, September. From the society.  
Bibliography III., *Æcalephs*. By J. Walter Fewkes. From Prof.

A. Agassiz.

Two Papers. Problems of Nature. New York.

*American Agriculturist*, September.

Transactions of the Royal Historical Society, Vol. II., Pt. 2, 1884.

From the society.

Journal and Proceedings of the Royal Society of N.S.W. From

the society.

Meteorological Table, India, March, 1884. From the Meteorological Office, Calcutta.

*Agricultural Gazette*, August 18, 1884.

Monthly Record Meteorological Observations, Melbourne, June.

From Mr. R. L. J. Ellery.

The Monthly Weather Report of the Meteorological Office for March, 1884, London. From the Meteorological Office.

Vital and Meteorological Statistics of Hobart and Launceston for the month of September. From the Government Statistician.

Meteorological Observations of Tasmania for September. From the Meteorological Observer.

List of presentations to the Museum :—

#### Mammals.

A Tasmanian Tiger, and four young ones, *Thylacinus cyanocephalus*, Mr. Wm. Turvey.

Two Tasmanian Devils, *Sarcocephalus ursinus*, Mr. Flexmore.

A Water Rat, *Hydromys chrysogaster*, Mr. Propsting.

Three Wallabys, *Halmaturus penicillata*; *Halmaturus thetidis*; *Halmaturus dorsalis*, The Trustees Brisbane Museum.

#### Birds.

Laughing Jackass, *Dacelo gigas*, *Dacelo leachii*, *Cracticus robustus*, *Strepera graculina*, *Carpophaga magnifica*.

Flinders Cuckoo, *Eudynamys flindersii*, *Orthonyx spaldingi*.

Australian Egret, *Herodias alba*, The Trustees Brisbane Museum.

Pallid Cuckoo, *Cuculus inornatus*, Mr. E. D. Swan.

Summer Bird, *Graucalus parvirostris*, Mr. Hissey.

2 Black-headed Honeyeater, *Melithreptus melanocephalus*.

1 Forty-spotted Diamond Bird, *Pardalotus quadrangintus*, Mr. Geo. Hinsby.

Wedge-tailed Eagle, *Aquila audax*, Mr. Webster.

Sooty Oyster Catcher, *Hæmatopus fuliginosus*.

White-breasted Oyster Catcher, *Hæmatopus longirostris*.

2 Moreporks, *Podargus cuvierii*.

Jameson's Gull, *Larus Jamesonii*.

Fire-tail Finch, *Estrellda bellus*, Mr. H. L. Swift.

Chestnut-faced Owl, *Strix castanops*, Mr. J. G. Davies.

Tabuan Water Crake, *Porzana tabuencis*, Mr. R. Bayless

#### Fishes.

*Dules Haswelli*, *Mugil dolula*, *Pristopoma hasta*, *Ostracion cornutus*, *Ostracion cubicus*, *Caranx hippos*, *Scorpena cruenta*, The Trustees Brisbane Museum.

The Velvet Fish, *Holoxenus cutaneus*, Mr. F. P. Wilson, Derwent.

The Parrot Fish, *Labrichthys Mortonii*, Mr. W. L. Boyes.

Flying Gurnard, *Trigla* sp.

Fresh-water Flathead, *Aphritis urvillii*, Mr. Seal.

## Queensland Reptiles.

Grammatophora sp., Grammatophora barbata.

Iguana, Hydrosaurus varius. The Trustees Brisbane Museum.

## Mollusca.

Tasmanian Shells, Mr. H. L. Swift.

A collection of Macroshisma tasmanica, Mr. J. McCance.

## Crustacea.

A Hermit Crab, Pagurus sp., Mr. E. D. Swan.

## Minerals.

A collection of cores, by the diamond drill from the Cascades, the hon. the Minister of Lands through Mr. B. Shaw.

A collection of Sulphur, etc., from the Hot Lakes of New Zealand, with photo. of Hot Springs, Mr. Howard Haywood.

## PAPERS.

A paper, entitled "The River Derwent: note upon the flood of 23rd September, 1884," by Mr. A. Mault, was read by the hon secretary, Dr. Agnew. The paper was written with the object of placing upon record a remarkable variation in the quantity of water passing in the river; calculations of the mean quantity being also given from observations taken during the past two years.

Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., read a paper, "Observations on six rare fishes, recently captured in Tasmanian waters:—Callanthias Allportii Latris ciliaris, Erythrichthys nitidus, Centriscus scolopax, Labrichthys Mortonii nov. sp., Oligorus gigas." Mr. Johnston stated that during the last two months several new or rare species of fish had come under his notice, which he had thought desirable to bring under the notice of the society. He said he might mention that Mr. Morton, the curator of the Museum, had been praiseworthy in arousing the interest of local observers in various parts of the island, and it was to him that he was chiefly indebted for three of these interesting forms. The fishes on the western, northern, and north-eastern parts of the island are, as yet, imperfectly known. The recent discovery of the snipe or trumpet fish (centriscus scolopax) at Port Sorell, by Miss Lodder, and the capture of the "Hapuka" Oligorus gigas, and the "Moki" Latris ciliaris, so common in New Zealand, at George's Bay, by Mr. W. L. Boyes, leads one to hope that many new forms from these imperfectly investigated regions will soon be added to our list of Tasmanian fishes.

Dr. AGNEW said the Council had a sum of money which was intended to be set apart for a memorial to the late Mr. Morton Allport. The Council had some difficulty in which way the money should be laid out, but it was thought that a small library, including all the latest works on fishes, to be called the Morton Allport Library, would be an appropriate and fitting memorial to the memory of their late friend. (Hear, hear.)

Mr. J. R. McClymont, M.A., read a paper entitled, "Tentative list of Navigators who visited Van Diemen's Land prior to September, 1803." Mr. McClymont stated his object in bringing this paper before the society was mainly to call attention to the paucity of information within our reach regarding geographical discovery in Tasmania—a defect which, he stated, it is increasingly difficult to remedy, seeing that the works which contain such information are being eagerly bought up for the libraries of Europe, America, and the other colonies.

Mr. J. B. WALKER said they were under an obligation to Mr. McClymont for his carefully prepared and well considered paper,

since the history of early voyages to the colony was of great interest not only to the Society but to the public generally. Mr. McClymont had called attention to the dearth of books relating to the colony in our public libraries, and this was a fact which certainly was not creditable to Tasmania, there being very few printed records of its discovery, settlement, and history to be found in the whole country. Not long ago when the French man-of-war, the *Finisterre*, called at Hobart, some of her officers went to the Public Library to obtain information respecting the discoveries in Tasmania of the earlier French navigators *Dentrecasteaux*, *Baudin*, and others, but to their great astonishment the Public Library had not a single one of the books for which they sought. It was discreditable to Tasmania. It was a strange thing that Tasmania possessed fewer books about its own history than other countries did; it was an astonishing state of affairs. In regard to the nature of the paper which had just been read, he thought it would be well if the members of the society would oftener take up subjects relating to the geography, and early history of the colony. The Royal Society was the only society which could be called a literary or learned society in the colony, and although the two subjects he referred to were not particularly provided for in the rules and constitution of the society, he did not see why papers dealing with them should not be read; or that a Geographical and Historical Section should not be formed, the members of which might write papers embodying the results of their researches which could be read at meetings of the Section and not at the monthly meetings. There would be one advantage in Sections, as it would enable the members belonging to it to work together systematically towards preserving those materials for the future history of the colony, which were fast passing away. He suggested that a committee should be appointed to confer with the trustees of the Public Library and the Parliamentary Library Committee, with the view of obtaining a complete set of works relating to the early discovery and history of Tasmania.

The CHAIRMAN said it might not be generally known that it was the special object of Sir John Franklin, 40 years ago, to collect together all the works relating to the Australasian colonies, and a library was established in Lady Franklin's Museum. The ultimate intention was to form a library in the then projected college, but he did not know what had become of the collection now.

Mr. WALKER: There are a few such books in Christ's College Library.

The CHAIRMAN said the trustees of the College might be willing to hand these books over to the society, as their library was the suitable place for their reception. At all events these books were lost in a measure to the public at present, and he thought they should be set apart for the special object for which they were collected.

Mr. E. D. SWAN did not think the trustees would like to dispose of these books.

Mr. WALKER said there were not many books of this description in the college library, and that the college trustees certainly could not part with any of them.

Mr. A. MORTON said the Royal Society of Sydney have geographical and historical sections, and he did not think there was anything in the society's rules which debarred them from forming similar separate sections.

Dr. AGNEW pointed out that separate sections had been tried, but they did not prove a success, probably because of the small

number of members in the society. He thought it would be better if the members who took an interest in these subjects met together, and then laid the result of their investigations before the society at their monthly meetings.

Mr. JUSTIN BROWNE thought there should be an arrangement between the libraries about buying such books so as to obtain at least one complete series of all works relating to the colony. There was no necessity for each library buying copies of the same works, many of which were very expensive, but they might so arrange as to make a complete set amongst them. He thought Mr. Walker should put his suggestion in the shape of a formal motion.

Mr. WALKER then moved,—“That the Council be requested to communicate with the trustees of the Public Library and the committee of the Parliamentary Library with the view of making arrangements for the purchase of books, dealing with voyages to the island, and the history of the colony.”

Dr. PERKINS seconded the motion.

Mr. T. STEPHENS, while sympathising with the general principles of the motion, asked: Where are the available funds of the Royal Society to purchase these books? That was the awkward point, but he hoped there would be some way found out of the difficulty. They must not expect to do too much at first, and by patience the object in view might be achieved. He could tell them at one time there was a much larger collection of works in the public libraries, and the reason of their diminution was not far to seek. He did not wish to find fault with any one, but there had been a great deal of culpable carelessness in lending out books.

Mr. WALKER thought there was sufficient scope for the action of the society. They were supposed to be a learned body—let them provide the learning and zeal, and the other richer libraries could provide the money. (Laughter.)

The motion was then agreed to.

Mr. A. MORTON, Curator of the Museum, read a few notes on the “*Estrus ovis*, or gad-fly of the sheep.” This fly deposits its eggs in the nostril of the sheep, where they are soon hatched, and then crawl up the nostril and frontal sinuses of the sheep, giving great annoyance to the animal so afflicted. Accompanying this paper was one of the grubs, taken from the head of a recently introduced sheep from the neighbouring colonies. The butchers of Hobart state that they have not hitherto noticed the grub in any of the Tasmanian sheep. It is, however, well-known in Europe and the colonies.

Mr. E. D. SWAN said the insect had been heard of in Tasmania before.

Mr. MORTON said it was not until that evening that he had learned that the gad-fly had been previously heard of in Tasmania.

Mr. PARK said he had never heard of many cases, though he had seen sheep protecting themselves from it by boring their noses into the sand.

#### VOTES OF THANKS.

Mr. JUSTIN BROWNE proposed a vote of thanks to the gentlemen for their able papers.

Mr. E. D. SWAN, in seconding, moved that a special vote of thanks be awarded to Mr. Morton for preparing the specimens which had been presented to the society.

The motions were unanimously agreed to.

The proceedings then terminated.