

nearly pure silica, probably tripoli or infusorial earth. He stated that the infusorial earth had a considerable commercial value if of good quality, and he quoted the U.S. mineral statistics, it was shown that the production of 2,532 tons of 2,000lb., valued at 50,640dol., or about £4 a ton. This stone was found in connection with the lithographic stone recently referred to in a previous issue of *The Mercury*.

PAPER BY PROFESSOR TATE.

A paper was handed in by the Secretary, contributed by Professor Ralph Tate, F.L.S., of Adelaide, on the "Classificatory portion and synonyms of *Eactoniella Rufflabris*."

After the usual votes of thanks the meeting terminated.

JUNE.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held in the Society's room at the Museum on Tuesday evening, June 14. His Excellency the Governor Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., presided, and there was a good attendance of ladies and gentlemen.

A NEW MEMBER.

Mr. Charles Holdsworth was duly elected a Fellow of the Society.

AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE JOURNAL.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Alex. Morton) laid on the table Volume III. of the journal of the New Zealand meeting, which had just arrived. He also said the journal of the Hobart meeting was well in hand.

His EXCELLENCY expressed himself as highly pleased that the publication of the Hobart journal was being done so expeditiously.

CORRESPONDING MEMBERS.

The SECRETARY stated that the Council had under consideration Mr. Ogilvy's suggestions with regard to corresponding members throughout the country, and hoped to be able to report on it by next meeting.

PAPERS.

Notes on the Natural Limits to Occupation on the Land, by Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON, F.L.S.

Notes on the Square-set System of Timbering in Mining at Zeehan and Dundas, illustrated by a Model Square-set. By ALFRED J. TAYLOR, F.L.S.

His EXCELLENCY moved a vote of thanks to the gentlemen who had contributed. As regarded Mr. Taylor's paper, he was sure they had all listened to it with great interest. The explanation he had given was very clear, and he had no doubt his object would be fulfilled if the general attention of the mining public was directed both to the advantages and drawbacks of this description of timbering. (Applause.)

The proceedings then terminated.

JULY.

The usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum on Tuesday evening, July 12. His Excellency the Governor

Sir Robert G. C. Hamilton, K.C.B., LL.D., presided, and there was a large attendance.

The Secretary stated he had received a telegram from Mr. Russell, the Government Astronomer of New South Wales, informing him that it would be impossible for his paper to arrive in Hobart by that night's train. The paper was one of very great importance, dealing as it did with the late Leake bequest in connection with astronomy. Under the circumstances he would ask for the paper to be postponed till next meeting.

SOME PLANTS NEW TO TASMANIA.

Mr. LEONARD RODWAY read some notes on this subject.

Mr. A. J. OGILVY read a paper entitled "Artificial obstructions to the occupation of the land."

The Rev. Dr. SCOTT, and Messrs. C. H. GRANT and A. J. TAYLOR spoke on the subject.

The Secretary (Mr. A. MORTON), on behalf of Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A., read a paper "On the Occurrence of some Australian *Ardeideæ* in Tasmania," discussion being postponed.

The meeting closed with a vote of thanks to all who had taken part in the proceedings.

AUGUST, 1892.

The monthly evening meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held at the Museum on Monday, August 8. The President (His Excellency Sir Robert G. C. Hamilton) K.C.B., LL.D., presided, and there was a good attendance of Fellows.

CORRESPONDENCE.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Morton) read a letter from Mr. H. C. Russell, the Government Astronomer of New South Wales, with reference to his paper on the Leake bequest. The writer said he had ascertained that it would not be possible to get for Tasmania one of the telescopic instruments sent to South America. It would, therefore, be necessary to order one from the manufactory—either Sir Howard Grubb or M. Gautier, of Paris. Sir Howard Grubb's price was £1,800. He was unable to ascertain M. Gautier's figures. About 12 months would elapse from the date of the order until the instrument was ready for use. He had made no provision in the paper for architect's fee, as he had drawings and specifications for the Observatory which would serve the builder's purpose. For teaching purposes it would be convenient to have the Observatory close to the University, but as far from the railway as possible, as the vibrations caused by trains passing would to some extent interfere with photographic work. He hoped the Leake trustees and the Council would be able to carry out the proposal. The time for the institution of an Observatory in the southern hemisphere was most opportune and might not come again for years.

THE LEAKE ASTRONOMICAL BEQUEST.

Mr. A. MORTON (Secretary), in the absence of the author, read a paper entitled the proposed "Leake School of Practical Astronomy," by Mr. H. C. Russell, F.R.S., the Government Astronomer of New South Wales :—

Mr. RUSSELL said during his visit to Hobart in January last he was struck with the brightness and translucency of the atmosphere, and it