

Royal Society of Tasmania.

ANNUAL MEETING, 1899.

The annual meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held on Monday, March 27, at the Museum, Argyle-street. The Hon. C. H. Grant, M.E.C., presided.

CORRESPONDING MEMBER.

On the nomination of Sir James Agnew and others, Mr. A. Waugh, R.N., Navigating Lieutenant of H.M.S. Penguin, was elected a corresponding member.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON spoke gratefully of the services that Mr. Waugh had rendered the Museum, and the valuable gifts he had made to it.

The CHAIRMAN said that Mr. Waugh had been a valued contributor to the Museum, and he was glad it was proposed to elect him a corresponding member.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following new members were elected:—Messrs. Charles Booth, Resident Secretary Australian Mutual Provident Society; W. A. McLeod, B.A., B.Sc.; Alfred Winter, H. W. Griffith; A. M. Lea, Government Entomologist.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Alexander Morton) read the annual report as follows:—

The Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania have the pleasure of presenting their report for 1898, the 56th year of the Society's existence.

MEETINGS.

Eight meetings were held during the session, at which 19 papers and 8 papers in the Medical Section were read, one of the most important being by Dr. Gregory Sprott, M.D., Health Officer for the city of Hobart. The paper was entitled "The cause and prevention of typhoid fever, with a special reference to the proposed metropolitan drainagescheme of Hobart," and aroused so much interest that a special meeting was given up to discussion of the subject. Other papers read were:—

Notes on a visit to some of the English Museums. By His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania.

Notes on a visit to Port Davey, illustrated with lantern slides. By J. W. Beattie.

Notes on the Geology of La Perouse. By R. M. Johnston, F.L.S. (Communicated by W. H. Nicholls.)

Notes on Humeri of Tasmanian Labyrinthodonts. By W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

A classified list of the marine shells of Tasmania. By Miss M. Lodder.

On the occurrence of a sea snake in Tasmanian waters. By Alexander Morton.

Notes on a visit to West Australia, illustrated with 40 lantern slides. By Alexander Morton.

Excavations in Egypt, illustrated with 50 lantern slides. By Rev. C. R. Pollock, F.R.G.S.

Telegraphy without wires, with experiments. By Mr. Thos. Self.

On the Genus *Kraussina* in Tasmania. By Messrs. W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

Notes on a Surgeon of the Tudor period and his work. By Arthur H. Clarke, M.R.C.S., etc.

Cause and Prevention of Typhoid Fever, with special reference to Hobart. (Diagrams.) By Gregory Sprott, M.D., etc., Health Officer for the city of Hobart.

Description of a new "Cordyceps." By L. Rodway.

Supplementary Note on Limurite in Tasmania. By W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

Description and Measurements of some Mallicolo Crania. By Arthur H. Clarke, M.R.C.S., E.

The Mining Industry of Tasmania (illustrated by lantern slides). By W. H. Wallace, Secretary of Mines.

Notes on further regulations in reference to the Mutton Bird Industry. By the Bishop of Tasmania.

Botanical Notes.

Additions to the Fungus Flora of Tasmania. By L. Rodway.

THE SIR GEO. NEWNES ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

An incident of some interest to the Royal Society, and to the people of Hobart generally, was the arrival, in November, of the s.s. Southern Cross, which called here *en route* to Cape Adare with the

scientific staff, under the leadership of Mr. C. E. Borchgrevink, who intended to make a determined effort to reach the South Pole. As they were accredited to this Society, and as, moreover, this was the first time a ship bound for the Antarctic regions had called at Hobart since the visit of H.M.S. Erebus and Terror in the year 1841, it was decided to give the leader, Mr. Borchgrevink, the commander, Captain Jensen, the members of the scientific staff, and the officers of the ship a public welcome. The Government kindly undertook to defray the necessary cost, and a most successful *conversazione* was held in the Town-hall, attended by over 800 people, and presided over by His Excellency Viscount Gormanston, G.C.M.G.

Congratulatory addresses were presented to Mr. Borchgrevink and his party from your Society, from the Municipal Council (Hobart), the Chamber of Commerce, and the Marine Board of Hobart, the Microscopical Club (Launceston), and the leading scientific societies in Australia. The Southern Cross sailed from Hobart on December 17, and the party have since been safely landed at Victoria Land. It is a matter for congratulation that England still possesses men so public spirited as Sir Geo. Newnes, who defrays the entire cost of this large and well-equipped expedition.

PROPOSED HISTORICAL SECTION.

The Council have decided to start an historical section in connection with the Society.

LIBRARY.

The usual contributions from kindred societies have been received during the year.

FINANCE.

The income has been—Subscriptions, £177/11/3; balance, 1897, £35/16/10; total, £213/8/1; expenditure, £160/13/4, leaving a balance of £52/9/9.

MEDICAL SECTION.

The members of the Medical Section have had several meetings. The report of the section has been furnished by the hon. secretary, Dr. Gregory Sprott.

OBITUARY.

In the death of Sir Lambert Dobson, one of the vice-presidents, the Society sustained a great loss. The late Chief Justice took a warm interest in the Society, was an occasional contributor of papers, and a constant attendant at the meetings of the Society. Another very old member passed away during the year in the person of Mr. Matthew Seal. In what might be called the practical side of the Society's functions Mr. Seal was of the greatest help, and his

loss is much deplored, especially by those members of the Royal Society who are interested in the Tasmanian fisheries.

THE COUNCIL.

The vacancy in the Council, and also as vice-president, caused by the death of Sir Lambert Dobson has been filled by the appointment of the Right Rev. H. H. Montgomery, D.D., Bishop of Tasmania.

MEDICAL SECTION REPORT.

Dr. G. SPROTT read the following report of the Medical Section of the Society for the past year:—

The following is the report of the proceedings of the Medical Section for the session 1898-99:—The total number of members is 19. Four joined during the year, and two resigned owing to their leaving the colony.

The officers for the year were:—Patron, Sir James Wilson Agnew, K.C.M.G.; president, R. S. Bright; vice-presidents, G. H. Butler, E. L. Crowther; hon. treasurer, A. H. Clarke; hon. secretary, Gregory Sprott; committee members, J. E. Wolfhagen and C. E. Barnard. C. E. Barnard was elected *vice* W. A. Harvey, resigned.

Besides the monthly meetings held from March to October inclusive, four special meetings were held during the year. All the meetings were well attended, and many interesting papers were read and discussed by the members.

PAPERS.

1. Notes of a case of Intussusception in an Infant. Dr. Macgowan.
2. On some unusual Complications after Laparotomy. Dr. Wolfhagen.
3. Notes of three cases of Appendicitis. Dr. Drake.
4. Cause and Prevention of Typhoid Fever, with special reference to the proposed metropolitan drainage scheme. Dr. Sprott.
5. Typhoid Fever, accompanied by Hæmorrhage and Collapse. Intravenous injection of saline solution—recovery. Dr. Drake.
6. Notes of a case of Extra Uterine Pregnancy. Drs. Bright and Spark.
7. History of a case of Typhoid Fever, accompanied by gangrene of leg. Amputation—recovery. Dr. Spark.
8. Interesting case of Chorea. Dr. Macgowan.

EXHIBITS.

1. Skulls of different racial types. Dr. A. H. Clarke.
2. Photo of a foot after Fitzgerald's operation for club foot. Dr. Wolfhagen.

3. Case of Primary Spastic Paraplegia. Dr. Ireland.
4. Case of Tubercular Synovitis of the phalangeal joints. Dr. Walch.
5. Two ruptured hearts. Dr. Spark.
6. Brain with Hydatid Cyst. Dr. Sprott.

Library.—A considerable number of the latest medical works have been added to the Medical Library, and several handsome contributions were made by members, and especially by Drs. Crouch and Clarke.

Cordial relations continue to exist between the Launceston Medical Society and the Section, with the result that many matters of mutual interest have been discussed, and important decisions arrived at.

In conclusion, the members of this Section desire to place on record their hearty appreciation of the liberality which the Royal Society has so generously extended to them by the monetary grant to assist in establishing a Medical Library, and also for the use of the Royal Society's room for the meetings.

To Mr. Morton for his kind assistance we owe a special vote of thanks.

The President of the Medical Section, R. S. BRIGHT, M.R.C.S.E., thanked the Society for its generous support to the Medical Section, which was now universally recognised.

The CHAIRMAN moved the adoption of the annual report. He spoke of the loss the Society had sustained in the death of Sir Lambert Dobson, Mr. Matthew Seal, and Lieut. Beddome, C.E. Sir Lambert Dobson was a most energetic and useful member, a good friend and patron of the Society. Mr Seal was also a useful and practical member. During the past year 19 new members had been elected, and only six had resigned, so that the Society had been strengthened by 13 members independently of those just elected. The funds were also in a very satisfactory condition. He regretted that the Government had given the Society no assistance. In the other colonies the Royal Societies were recognised as public bodies which conferred benefits on the community, and they were assisted, more or less, by the local Governments. Now that the finances of Tasmania were in a better condition than for some years past, perhaps if the Government were approached on the subject they might be induced to give the Society the financial recognition which was afforded to the societies in the other colonies. The reception given to the Antarctic Expedition was no more than they deserved. He hoped success would attend the efforts of the members. They heard of a German and other expeditions, but

the British one would have priority in the work of the examination of the South Polar regions. He hoped that when they returned to Tasmania they would bring advanced news from the far south. Sir George Newnes deserved credit for the liberal expenditure he made on the expedition. There was an element of commercial speculation in the enterprise, but the expenditure was much to risk for an uncertain end. A new Historical Section was about to be created with the assistance of Mr. J. B. Walker, and, beyond doubt, the section would be of great interest to the Society. The collection of historical facts would be of great advantage to the colony. The Society's list of exchanges showed that their papers extended over a very wide area. They were in communication with 200 societies, and were therefore favourably known to the scientific world.

Mr. J. B. WALKER, F.R.G.S., seconded the motion. He said that, following the example of the medical profession, the members interested in the geography and history of Tasmania were desirous of founding a section in which they might be able to discuss questions specially interesting to them more profitably than they could at general meetings of the Society. Our history was not long, nor our geography extensive, but there was a good deal to be done. The object of the new section was to gather materials for the history of Tasmania, and it was a pity that some efforts in that direction had not been made earlier. He was aware that already valuable public records had been lost to the colony, and it was not creditable to the keepers of the records that such things should happen. The Hobart Public Library was disgracefully deficient in works relating to Tasmania. Not one-tenth of the books written on Tasmania were to be found there. Our young people and all educated people ought to know something about the history of the colony. A short and brightly-written school history of Tasmania ought to be in existence.

Discussion followed, in which Mr. J. W. Beattie, Colonel Legge, R.A., and Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., took part.

The SECRETARY mentioned that in most of the other colonies the scientific societies got £1 for £1 aid from the Government, or, at all events, 10/ or 15/ for every £1 raised.

The report was adopted.

MEMBERS OF COUNCIL.

The following retiring members of Council were re-elected:—Messrs. T. Stephens, M.A.; J. B. Walker, F.R.G.S.; R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S., F.; and A. G. Webster.

VOTE OF THANKS.

Mr. MORTON moved a vote of thanks to the press of Tasmania for the careful and general support given to the society.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON seconded the motion, which was agreed to.

PAPER BY MR. NAPIER BELL, M. INST. C.E.

The CHAIRMAN announced that at the April meeting a paper on Macquarie Harbour would be read before the Society by Mr. Napier Bell, M. Inst. C.E.