NOVEMBER, 1900.

The last monthly meeting of the Royal Society (for the 1900 session) was held at the Museum last evening, the President, His Excellency Sir John Dodds, presiding. There was a large attendance of members present. The chairman of the Council, the Hon. Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., forwarded an apology, regretting that owing to the state of his health he was unable to be present.

The Secretary (Mr. Alex. Morton) read an interesting letter that had been forwarded to the Society by Mr. Malcolm Harrison, of New Town, stating that on the 4th of this month he had found a goldfinch's nest, containing two eggs of the rightful owner and one of the pallid cuckoo.

Papers.

The Secretary, in the absence of the authors, read the following papers:—One by Mr. W. F. Petterd, F.Z.S.L., of Launceston, entitled "On some additions to the list of Minerals known to occur in Tasmania." The writer said the catalogue of the minerals known to occur in this island enumerates considerably over 250 distinct elementary substances and chemical combinations. In addition to this remarkably large number, subsequent research has brought to light several interesting examples, and now the author has been enabled to still further increase this number. The paper briefly enumerates 18 substances, to which mineralogists have applied specific terms, all of which were apparently previously unknown in Tasmania. It might reasonably be expected that from time to time, as geological and mining investigation proceeded, and the field of observation extended, occasional additions of rare or obscure minerals might be brought to light, but it could scarcely be anticipated that the restricted area of the island would afford such a prolific field in this department of scientific investigation, as is forcibly illustrated by the writer's comparatively numerous discoveries. The more recent careful examination and determination of a long series of igneous rocks has revealed several unusual rock-forming primary and accesory minerals, the occurrence of which in this island, the writer says, was previously unsuspected, and, doubtless, as this petrographical work is continued other forms of equal interest will be discovered.

The other paper was also by a Launceston member, Mr. F. E. Burbury, and constitutes the first part of a series of papers on the Diatomaceæ, and was entitled "Contributions towards a systematic catalogue of Tasmanian Diatomaceæ."

Professor E. G. Hogg, M.A., read a paper illustrated with specimens of the rock entitled "The Glacial Beds of Peppermint Bay."

A carefully prepared paper was read by Mr. A. Morton, giving an exhaustive account of the work done by the Society from the year 1840 to the present time, and showing how valuable had been the contributions of the Society to the world of science. To persons interested in the welfare of the Society the paper was of special interest, dealing as it did with the chief events that have transpired during the last 60 years. In limited space it is impossible to do more than mention the variety of subjects that were treated by Mr. Morton. The four departments of zoology, botany, geology, and meteorology were the first that received attention from the Society, and geography was not long overlooked. Interesting mention was made of the detailed work of the Society and its volumes of records. Important discoveries were also referred to, and a quantity of statistical information given Attention was directed to a long list of valuable papers that were from time to time read, and prominent mention made of the active part taken by the Society in various expeditions of research. Among other matters referred to were some of the minerals of Tasmania, and the advancement of the colony generally. The paper is one that entailed considerable labour and research in its preparation, and as a historical sketch will form a valuable acquisition to the records of the Society.

Mr. Morton's paper was illustrated with over 40 specially prepared lantern slides.

The Chairman complimented Mr. Morton on the class of paper he had read. He said that Mr. Hogg's paper was also of an interesting character.