

ABSTRACT

OF THE

Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1898.

OPENING MEETING, MAY, 1898 SESSION.

The first meeting of the session of 1893 was held by the Royal Society of Tasmania, at the Art Gallery on Monday, May 25. His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania (Dr. Montgomery) presided. There was a large attendance. Apologies for non-attendance were received from His Excellency the Governor, Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., M.D., M.E.C., and Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S.

The following persons were elected members of the Society:—F. J. Drake, M.B., B.S., Melb. Univ.; Dr. Alsop, G. M. Anderson, M.P., C.M.; E. W. J. Ireland, M.B., C.M., Edin.; Mr. E. T. Miles, M.H.A.; Mr. George Steward, Under Secretary; and Mr. O. E. White.

Before calling on the secretary to read the annual report, the CHAIRMAN referred to the death of the late Chief Justice, who had been one of the Vice-Presidents of the Society. He said they also keenly felt the deep loss occasioned by the death of the late Mr. Matthew Seal. A more recent and deeper loss, however, was the death of the late Chief Justice. Their late Vice-President had been a most regular attendant at all meetings, and the Society deeply lamented his death. There was still another loss to deplore. He referred to the death of Mr. F. Belstead, who had been one of their highest types of a public servant.

ANNUAL REPORT.

The SECRETARY (Mr. A. Morton) then read the following annual report:—

The Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania have pleasure in presenting this, their annual report for the year 1897. During the session six meetings have been held. At the first meeting, His Honor Sir Lambert Dobson, K.C.M.G., C.J., F.L.S., Vice-President, presided. Before the business of the meeting commenced, the Chairman referred to the loss the Society had sustained in the death of Mr. James Barnard, Vice-President of the Society. A full account of the remarks of the Chairman is given in the 1897 Volume of Proceedings. At this meeting the Chairman read an address from the Society that had been decided to send to Her Most Gracious Majesty the Queen on the celebration of Her Majesty's Record Reign. Among the papers read at the May meeting, were one by Professor W. Jethro

Brown, MA., LL.D., entitled, "The application of the Hare system in Tasmania." Mr R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., F.S.S., Government Statistician and Registrar-General of Tasmania, read a paper, "Observations on the working results of the Hare system of election in Tasmania" illustrated with diagrams. Messrs. W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S., contributed an interesting paper on some microscopical studies of Tasmanian rocks. Mr. F. Back, A.M.I.C.E., F.S.S., General Manager of Tasmanian Railways, furnished a paper on the "Mount Dundas Narrow-gauge Railway." The paper was of particular interest, being illustrated with some specially prepared lantern slides, by Mr. J. W. Beattie, Hon. Photographer to the Tasmanian Government. At the June meeting Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., Vice-President, announced that Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., F.S.S., had been unanimously elected a Vice-President of the Society, taking the place of the late Mr. James Barnard. Dr. Gregory Sprott, Health Officer of the City of Hobart, read a paper that evoked some interesting discussion, entitled, "Disposal of our Dead by Cremation." Some interesting correspondence on the working of the Ben Nevis Observatory, by Mr. Alex. Buchan, President of the Scottish Meteorological Society, was read by Mr. H. C. Kingsmill, M.A., Meteorological Observer of Tasmania. At the next meeting congratulations were conveyed to the Vice-President, Sir Lambert Dobson, on the honour that had been conferred on him since the last meeting as K.C.M.G. Several interesting papers were read at the August meeting—"On the Topaz-quartz-porphry, or stanniferous elvan dykes of Mount Bischoff," by Messrs. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and Petterd, C.M.Z.S. Mr. J. B. Walker, F.R.G.S., added to the history of the Tasmanian aboriginal race a valuable paper from notes taken from the late Mr. Geo. Washington Walker's journal. At the September meeting Mr. W. R. Harper, member of the Polynesian Society, read a paper on the measurements of the Maori and Moriari crania. At the same meeting, a paper on the iron deposits of Tasmania, by Mr. W. G. Dauncey, C.E., and one on obsidian buttons, by Mr. T. Stephens, M.A., F.G.S., were read. At the October meeting Messrs. W. E. Harper, M. Polynesian Society, and Mr. A. H. Clarke, M.R.C.S.E., read a very valuable paper giving the measurements of the Tasmanian Aboriginal crania contained in the Tasmanian Museum. At the last meeting of the session Mr. L. Rodway gave a paper on the "Tasmanian Fungi," and a new "Trithuria." Mr. W. F. Petterd one on "Some Recently New and Rare Minerals Discovered in Tasmania." A paper by the same author and Mr. W. H. Twelvetrees on "The Occurrence of Spherulitic Felsite on the West Coast" was read, as also one by Mr. A. Mault, engineering inspector to the Board of Health, on

"The Great Lake and its Water Power. A further paper, dealing with the "Aboriginals of Tasmania," by Mr. J. B. Walker, closed the session of 1897. During the year the evening meetings have been well attended and great interest taken. As will be seen by the report appendix A, the medical section have had several meetings, presided over by the president of the section, R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S.E. Several important subjects have been dealt with by the members of the medical profession.

COUNCIL.

Owing to the death of Mr. James Barnard, the vacancy on the Council was filled by the appointment of Mr. R. S. Bright, M.R.C.S.E.

LIBRARY.

The trustees of the British Museum presented a valuable collection of works. A full list is published in the proceedings, pp. XXII. and XXIII.; also a list of donations from kindred societies on pages XXV.-XXIX.

FELLOWS.

Four corresponding members and nine Fellows were elected during the year.

FINANCE.

The income has been: Subscriptions, £93, with 1896 balance, £89 13s.; total, £182 13s. Expenditure, £146 16s. 2d., leaving a balance of £35 16s. 10d.

APPENDIX A.

Towards the end of 1896 the medical members of the Royal Society established a medical section. Seventeen members joined the section. The following officers were elected in December, 1896, to hold office till March, 1898:—Patron: Sir James 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; members of committee: W. A. Harvey, J. E. Wolfhagen. Seven general meetings were held, and all were well attended, nearly every member contributing to the work of the section by papers or discussions. Papers—1. "A Plea for Circumcision," by Dr. A. H. Clarke. 2. "Notes of a Post Mortem," Dr. W. W. Giblin. 3. "Serum Diagnosis of Typhoid Fever, with Microscopic slides," Drs. Gregory Sprott and E. J. S. Spark. 4. "Friedreich Disease," by Dr. E. J. S. Spark. 5. "New Method of Treating Empyema," by Dr. S. C. Jamieson. 6. "Notes of a Case of Camphor Poisoning," by Dr. A. H. Clarke. 7. "Case of Suppuration of Eyeball during Convalescence from Typhoid," by Dr. S. C. Jamieson. Exhibits:—A large calculus, by Dr. Bright. Tasmanian skulls, by Dr. A. H. Clarke. Horseshoe Kidney, Dr. Gregory Sprott. The following exhibited cases of interest:—Dr. Chas. Crosby Walsh, Dr. E. J. S. Spark, Dr. W. W. Giblin

The report was adopted.

The following members were re-elected members of the Council:—Sir James Agnew, K.C.M.G., M.D., M.E.C.; Hon. N. J. Brown, M.E.C., Speaker of the House of Assembly; Colonel W. V. Legge, R.A., Commandant of Tasmanian Forces; R. M. Johnston, F.L.S., F.S.S., Registrar-General of Tasmania.

PAPERS.

"NOTES ON A VISIT TO SOME OF THE ENGLISH MUSEUMS." By His Lordship the Bishop of Tasmania.

Bishop MONTGOMERY read a paper giving an account of his experiences in British Museums. An interesting description was given of the many exhibits seen in the museums visited. The paper stated that the well kept order of the Tasmanian Museum was referred to wherever he went. The advantage of exchanging exhibits was also referred to.

"NOTES ON THE GEOLOGY OF LA PEROUSE." By Mr. H. W. Nicholls.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON, F.L.S., read a paper on the geology of Mount La Perouse, which was written by Mr. H. W. Nicholls. The paper referred to the difficulties encountered in making an ascent of the mountain. The top of the mountain is composed of yellow clay slates. The deposit appeared to be about 100ft. in thickness, and rested on grey sandstone. Beneath the sandstone was a body of basalt. One of the hills to the north of Perouse also seemed to have a covering of grey slates. It appeared to the writer that the comparatively small elevation of the mountain accounted for the existence of the sedimentary deposits at the present time. The age of the deposits could only be hazarded. Anyone ascending La Perouse was advised to keep careful compass bearings when a fog prevailed.

"NOTES ON HUMERI OF A TASMANIAN LABYRINTHODONT." By W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S.

The SECRETARY (Mr. Morton) read the following paper, prepared by Messrs. W. H. Twelvetrees, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S. The paper stated that last year the writers received from Dr. H. Woodward, keeper of the geological collections in the British Museum (South Kensington), the replica of a cast in the British Museum collection, which had been obtained from Dr. Joseph Milligan, formerly of Hobart. Soon after informing Mr. Morton, Curator of the Tasmanian Museum, of the circumstance that gentleman brought under their notice and placed in their hands for examination a fossil bone (in two pieces) found in the sandstone quarry near Government House, in the Hobart Domain, and presented to the Museum in 1856 by Mr. Hay, Director of Public Works. Both the British and Tasmanian specimens are left humeri, and unquestionably belong to the same genus, if not the same species.

A very interesting description was given of the two bones, and also a list of the remains of the labyrinthodonts found in the different localities. The paper was accompanied with an excellent plate showing both the bones from the British and Tasmanian Museums.

“NOTES ON A VISIT TO PORT DAVEY.”

By J. W. Beattie.

Mr. J. W. BEATTIE read a paper on a recent trip to Port Davey. The paper was illustrated with a number of limelight views. The scenery at Port Davey was said to have an individuality of its own. Steep hills prevailed in all directions, and afforded an endless variety of views. The first view shown was Adamson's Peak, which was succeeded by a picture of Southport Island. Other illustrations followed in quick succession, showing the various scenes of interest to be met with on a trip to Port Davey. The general features and early history of each view were briefly explained, and tended to increase the interest manifested by the gathering. A realistic illustration of Kelly's Basin was produced, and the quality of the oysters found therein extolled. The locality of Bramble Cove, where vessels trading

to the West Coast sought shelter during storms, was pointed out, and the rugged grandeur of the scene explained. A tribute was paid to the harbour accommodation of Port Davey, and a suggestion made that one of the shipping companies should be induced to frequently run a vessel to the locality during the tourist season. As an agricultural settlement Port Davey had no future, but no doubt could be entertained with regard to its mineral possibilities. In conclusion, the speaker expressed a hope that before long Port Davey would prove to Hobart a mine of wealth and bring about a prosperity all hoped to see.

A brief discussion took place on several of the papers read.

The Hon. ADYE DOUGLAS, M.L.C., proposed a vote of thanks to those who contributed papers, and referred specially to the limelight views shown.

The Hon. C. H. GRANT, M.L.C., seconded the motion.

The motion was carried by acclamation.

At the close of the meeting the members and friends of the Society were entertained by the lady members of the Hamilton Literary Society. The tables were laid out in the board-room of the Royal Society.