

Royal Society of Tasmania

ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS.

JANUARY 29, 1912.

A Special General Meeting of the Society was held at 8 p.m. in the Museum.

Hon. G. H. Butler occupied the chair.

The business of the Special Meeting was as follows:—

- (a) That the following be a Rule of the Society:—
 “Number 23. The Secretary shall have the custody of the common seal of the Society. Subject to the Rules the Council may authorise the seal to be affixed to any document. The fixing of the seal shall be attested by at least two members of the Council.”
- (b) That the Field Naturalists Club be permitted to hold its meetings in the Society's Room, subject to such conditions as the Council may arrange.

Mr. Piesse moved clause “a,” which was carried. Mr. Piesse moved clause “b.” This motion was spoken to by Messrs. H. B. Ritz, A. O. Green, and L. F. Giblin, and carried.

MARCH 18, 1912.

The Annual General Meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. Hon. G. H. Butler presided, and there was a good attendance of members and visitors, including a number of ladies.

The annual report, which was read by the secretary (Mr. R. Hall) stated that eight monthly general meetings and two special general meetings were held during the year. Nine ordinary meetings and five special meetings of the Council were held during the same period. Eleven Fellows were elected, while 17 Fellows left the State or allowed their membership to lapse. The total number of Fellows of the Society was 138, including nine life members. The number of corresponding members was 16. Of these latter, Sir Joseph Hooker, the renowned botanist, died within the year. During the year a bill to incorporate the Society, and to confer upon it powers as to holding property, litigation, and to make and alter rules was passed by Parliament. The rules of the Society were revised by a special committee, and were now in operation. A sub-section on psychology and education had been formed, and the biological sub-section was brought into action about the middle of the year. On the representation of the Council of the

Society the Hon. the Minister of Lands had approved of the recommendation to alter the name of Oyster Bay to Fleurieu Bay, and the name of West Hunter Island to Fleurieu Island. These were the original names. The survey department was considering the right of further alteration and of placing names where they did not now exist on the chart. During the year 13 papers were read, and one illustrated lecture was delivered. The library received a gift of more than ordinary value in 11 handsome volumes dealing with the geology and natural history of the Harriman Alaska expedition. They were presented by Mr. E. H. Harriman, of New York, and forwarded by favour of the Smithsonian Institute.

The balance-sheet showed that the receipts amounted to £178 15s. 9d., and the expenditure to £128 16s. 8d., leaving a credit balance carried forward to 1912 of £48 19s. 1d.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and balance-sheet, said that it was gratifying to know that the work of the Society during the year had been beneficial. It was also pleasing to note that, financially, the Society was in a sound position. Although the accounts did not show a very large increase in the funds they showed that the Society was steadily progressing. He hoped, however, that members would not relax their efforts to obtain new members, as members who would take an interest in the work of the Society and contribute to the interest in that work were much wanted and the more they got the more popular would the Society become.

Mr. A. O. Green seconded the motion, which was carried.

The secretary then read the reports of the biological and education and psychological sections, which were adopted.

The following members were elected as the Council for the ensuing year—Hon. G. H. Butler, Dr. A. Clarke, Dr. Fritz Noetling, Dr. Sprott, Professor T. T. Flynn, and Messrs. S. Clemes, J. A. Johnson, E. L. Piesse, and L. Rodway.

The following new members were elected unanimously:—Mrs. E. M. Brooks, and Messrs. R. A. Black, E. Brooks, H. N. Butler, C. I. Clark, J. R. Chapman, W. L. Crowther, C. J. Inglis, and H. J. Spencer.

WELCOME TO CAPTAIN AMUNDSEN.

At the conclusion of the Society's business meeting an illustrated lecture was given by Mr. J. W. Beattie on "The Physiography of Tasmania." Amongst those present to hear it were the Admiral (Sir Geo. F. King-Hall), the Premier (Sir Elliott Lewis), the Bishop of Tasmania (Dr. Mercer), Captain Amundsen (the famous Antarctic explorer), and Captain Davis (of the *Aurora*, the Australian Antarctic exploring vessel).

The Chairman, in welcoming the visitors, said that His Excellency the Governor (the president of the society) would have

been more pleased to have been present that evening than on any occasion during the past year, but, unfortunately, serious illness detained him in the North. He was rapidly recovering, however, and he trusted soon to see him amongst them once more. The present was one of the most auspicious meetings that the Royal Society had held for many years, as they were welcoming amongst them one who had done a most illustrious and noble feat, one who had done what no one previously had succeeded in doing. (Applause.) It was easy from the accounts that had reached them to imagine the hardships and hard work that Captain Amundsen had gone through, and the perseverance he had shown, in successfully reaching the South Pole. (Applause.) He had accomplished this feat as the result of hard work, a thorough knowledge of the work he had undertaken, and a thorough determination to succeed. From what they had read, they all knew that Captain Amundsen had been brought up in endeavouring to do feats of this sort, and one could realise, from what he had done in getting through the North-West Passage, that such a man would succeed in getting to the South Pole, if anyone could. In welcoming him, the Royal Society felt proud that it was the first Society that Captain Amundsen had been able to honour with his presence. (Applause.) This Society was a very old one. It was started in 1843 by another great explorer, whose name they all honoured and revered, Sir John Franklin. (Applause.) Sir John Franklin was here when the exploring ships Erebus and Terror started from Tasmania to go as far South as Captain Amundsen had done, but it was many years before that great work was accomplished. He was sure every member of the Royal Society would feel proud that it was the first to welcome Captain Amundsen on his return. Of the work he had done they had only heard a smattering, but he understood that Captain Amundsen would publish a book, which would give them far more knowledge than they had at present, and he was sure they would look forward with the greatest pleasure to reading it, and becoming thoroughly acquainted with the difficulties and hardships that Captain Amundsen had undergone. They knew that there were other expeditions to the South Pole, and no doubt there would be many more, and they could assure every one of these explorers of a hearty welcome, and of hearty good wishes if Tasmania had the honour of sending them off. (Applause.) Hobart had been the port of departure for several expeditions, but now we had the honour of welcoming Captain Amundsen on the accomplishment of his very arduous task. (Hearty applause.)

Dr. Mercer said that he felt it a great honour to be called on to say a few words as representing the citizens of Hobart and his fellow-members of the Royal Society. In Hobart we were supposed to be next door to the South Pole, and to see very few people, but, as a matter of fact, he was convinced that there were very few cities, other than the greater ones, through which more people of eminence passed in the course of each year. It was astonishing how many people he had got to know since he came to Hobart, whom he would never have known had he been in more populous parts of the world. Although Hobart was far removed from the great cities of the world, it enjoyed unique opportunities of seeing many people whom it was well worth while to know, not the least of these

being the one they had the honour of having as a guest that evening, Captain Amundsen. Hobart was eminently a British city, and wherever there was a British city there was a lot of pluck, endurance and sportsmanship, and he was sure that all these qualities were possessed in an eminent degree by Captain Amundsen. (Applause.) Hobart had received no small share of the labours of Sir John Franklin, and he ventured to hope also that it shared the honour which his name carried with it. He trusted that a very large amount of that honour would fall on Captain Amundsen, for following up so nobly the work which Sir John Franklin had so magnificently begun. (Applause.) In regard to the other expeditions, he was sure they would honour Captain Scott's and the Japanese none the less if they got to the Pole. The same hardships would have had to be endured, and the same grit had to be shown, and they could admire all three expeditions equally. He, for one, ventured to think that all three would get to the Pole. That night, however, they remembered that Captain Amundsen and his brave comrades had carried off the palm of victory, and got to the Pole first, and he was sure that in no city of the Empire would Captain Amundsen meet with greater admiration for his pluck, or warmer recognition of the personal qualities he had revealed, than in Hobart. (Applause.)

Mr. Beattie then showed a number of fine views of Tasmanian scenery, and also some photographs taken by Dr. Mawson's party during the trip of the *Aurora* to the Antarctic regions.

Admiral King-Hall returned thanks, on behalf of the visitors, for the enjoyable evening that the Royal Society had enabled them to spend, and he also thanked Mr. Beattie for the beautiful views he had shown of a most beautiful country. One could learn more through the eye in half an hour than he could learn in ten hours from books, and he had learnt more about Tasmania that evening than he had learnt from all the books he had read. The beautiful views he had seen showed that Mr. Beattie also was an explorer, and must have shown great energy and vigour in getting them. One of the views, that of the Montezuma Falls on the West Coast, reminded him of the Fall of the Seven Rivers in Norway, and he was sure Captain Amundsen must have been struck by the resemblance.

Captain Amundsen, who was received with loud applause, said that he would also like to return thanks for the reception which had been given him that night, which he certainly appreciated highly. His limited knowledge of English would prevent him expressing fully all that he felt, and they must therefore excuse him on that account. The name of Sir John Franklin had been mentioned as the greatest explorer who ever lived, but he thought it was difficult to tell who was the greatest amongst so many great explorers that there were in the British Empire. In his view, Sir James Clark Ross was the greatest, and he had certainly done more in the Arctic than anyone else had done. As far as he (the speaker) was personally concerned, he did not know if he was worthy of the praise which they had given him. He did not think he was. He was just following in the footsteps of the British explorers, Ross and Franklin. They went to the North, and he followed them

there. Ross then went South, and showed others the way they would have to take if they wanted to go down to the South Pole. They praised him as having been first to the South Pole; well, they did not know yet. (Laughter.) He thought they had better wait a while, and hear what Captain Scott had to say. (Laughter and applause.) It might be another story then. Captain Scott might have been at the Pole before they got there, without them seeing his marks. He wished the Mawson expedition every success. It had commenced in a way which promised the best results, and he hoped that when Captain Davis returned to the Antarctic he would convey his best wishes to the members of the party. He joined with the Admiral in thanking Mr. Beattie for one of the most interesting lectures he had heard, and some of the most interesting pictures he had ever seen. (Applause.)

APRIL 15, 1912.

The ordinary monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. Hon. G. H. Butler presided, and there was a moderate attendance.

The Chairman expressed regret at the absence of the president of the Society, the Governor, but stated that His Excellency hoped to be well enough to attend the next meeting.

Messrs. C. W. Hemery and A. White were elected as ordinary members of the Society.

Professor Flynn read a paper by Mr. W. G. Torr, LL.D., on a new chiton.

Mr. L. Rodway tabled a paper upon "Tasmanian Mosses," stating that it was the first of a series he was offering to the Royal Society with the idea of bringing out a thoroughly up-to-date description of these interesting forms of our local flora. It might be considered that this was unnecessary, as so much had been done by previous workers in this line, but the work had been done in a very fragmentary manner. There had been many excellent collectors and a great many species had been identified, but there was no work in which the whole of the information was consolidated. The student of the mosses of Tasmania had no work that he could go to to gain all the information he required, and the present was a very good time to consolidate the whole of the information available and bring it out in a suitable form. As far as was known there were about 350 species of mosses, and 250 species of the closely allied forms, the hepatics, in Tasmania. Mr. W. A. Weymouth, who was one of the most active collectors of mosses in the State, was unable to take up the work of revision himself, but he had placed the whole of his collection at his (the speaker's) disposal, and it meant five years' work before his task would be accomplished, and during that time he would place a series of articles before members which would enable anyone taking up work of this kind to start from practically the present date. A large number of mosses had been describ-

ed for Tasmania which had probably never been found in Tasmania at all, therefore he would describe no specimens that were not actually in the collections, and all descriptions given would be original. Mosses constituted a clear-cut division of the vegetable kingdom, and had reproductive means almost entirely their own. Tasmania was exceptionally rich in hepatics, or liverworts; indeed, he had heard it said that this island was richer in them than any other country. There was no doubt, also, that a large number had still to be described. The hepatics were much more various in their structure than the true mosses. He proposed to describe the mosses first and the hepatics afterwards.

Mr. T. Stephens said that the Society and the community in general were much indebted to Mr. Rodway for the labour, in his case a labour of love, he had given to botanical work.

The Chairman offered to Mr. W. H. Twelvetrees, Government Geologist, the congratulations of the Society upon his having been awarded the gold medal of the Royal Society of New South Wales for his valuable work on the geology of Tasmania.

Mr. W. H. Twelvetrees, who was received with applause, thanked the chairman for his kind remarks, and said that he felt that the medal was not intended to be so much a recognition of his merits as an incitement to fresh and more worthy achievements. The work of elucidating the problems of Tasmanian geology had lain close to his heart for many years, and, he supposed would continue to do so to the last. He was sure that other workers in this field, and they were very few, would take this as an inspiration and encouragement, showing them that they were not quite alone, and that there were large and important bodies in Australia that were watching their work, and were in a position to recognise merit and effort. (Applause.)

Amongst the specimens displayed was an unusually large one of the mountain trout (*Galaxias truttaceus*), which had been caught on the East Coast.

MAY 13, 1912.

The usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. There was a moderate attendance, and Hon. G. H. Butler presided.

Messrs. L. J. Hobkirk, S. O. Lovell, and E. A. Woods were elected ordinary members of the Society.

A number of microscopic slides, illustrating various branches of biology, were shown by Professor Flynn, and Messrs. L. Rodway and H. M. Nicholls, by means of the lantern microscope.

The secretary (Mr. R. Hall) read a paper by Messrs. W. L. May and W. G. Torr on the Polyplacophora, or chitons.

The Chairman said that the Royal Society of Great Britain was about to celebrate its 250th anniversary, and the Royal Society of Tasmania had been invited to send one of its members to be present. It was thought that, as Dr. Sprott was going to England, he would represent the Society while there, and it was also thought that an address of congratulation should be sent. At last meeting of the council a sub-committee was appointed to draw up the address, which would be signed by His Excellency the Governor, as president of the Society, and by himself, as chairman of the council. The address would be then forwarded to England to be presented at the forthcoming meeting, in July.

Mr. J. A. Johnson then read the address which had been drawn up, which was approved of by the meeting.

JUNE 10, 1912.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held at the Museum, when, in the absence of the president, Dr. Clarke occupied the chair.

The following new members were unanimously elected:—Mrs. R. C. Patterson, Miss Mary K. McAllister, Messrs. George W. Smith, and L. L. Waterhouse.

The secretary read extracts from a paper by Mr. W. L. May, of Forest Hill, Sandford, on "Some new additions to the Tasmanian Mollusca." The paper described 18 species new to the Tasmanian list, most of which had been described by various authors from Australian and New Zealand sources. The occurrence of three more New Zealand species was interesting, but still more so was that of a large form of pecten (scallop), of which a living specimen was dredged up in 100 fathoms off Cape Pillar. It had previously been described from fossil specimens by the late Professor Tate. The paper also described eight species which appeared to be new to science, which were the results of various dredging expeditions. They did not present any great novelty when compared with the previously known fauna.

MIGRATORY BIRDS.

The secretary (Mr. R. Hall) exhibited a number of bird specimens, including several species of plovers and curlews. He pointed out that while there was a species of plover in Australia—the golden plover, which went north in winter, and nested on the Siberian Tundra—there was a European plover very closely allied to this, which nested in the north of Siberia, and went south-westward through Europe, and on to South Africa. The tracks of the two species very rarely crossed. There was a third species in America, which migrated north and south in the same way. The gray plover was a species which was found practically all over the world; it was a thorough globe-trotter. Of the English dottrell, of which he showed a specimen, a specimen had been obtained near Derby, in north-

western Australia. The black-fronted dottrell was an Australian species very similar, of which he knew of only two specimens that had been obtained in Tasmania. He had one specimen of the golden plover which had come from Maldon Island, in the Pacific. The bird was very thin, and must have been about a week on the wing. It was thought at first to be a stray, but it was now established that there was a circular plover track across the Pacific. The golden plover changed its plumage about Korea, and then went north as soon as the snow melted, and nested on the open tundra, which remained always frozen hard less than a foot from the surface, along with millions of other birds, finches, and other species. The plovers were of economic value because they destroyed large numbers of insects.

The Chairman mentioned that the spurwing and a black-breasted plover both destroyed a land-snail which was the intermediate host of the sheep-fluke.

The meeting closed with an exhibition of microscopical specimens, biological and petrological.

JULY 8, 1912.

The usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. Hon. G. H. Butler presided, and there was a moderate attendance of members.

Mr. R. N. Atkinson was elected a member of the Society.

Two papers were read:—(1) The theory of the quota in proportional representation, by E. L. Piessé, B.Sc.. (2) Notes on Derwent estuary fishes, by Robert Hall, C.M.Z.S.

The Chairman (Hon. Dr. Butler) said there was no doubt that under the Hare system it was necessary that every constituency should have an odd number of members. As long as there were even numbers there was bound to be the danger of disproportionate representation. The party that had a majority, even if it was a small one, was entitled to the odd member. He thanked Mr. Piessé for his interesting paper.

Mr. J. A. Johnson said that he hoped steps would be taken to bring Mr. Piessé's paper before the people in Belgium and France, who were interested in these matters. It represented a great deal of labour, and the reason no one was prepared to discuss it was probably because it required a great amount of mathematical skill to criticise Mr. Piessé's figures.

The Chairman said that the paper would be printed by the Electoral Department, which would no doubt see that it was distributed as widely as possible.

BOTANICAL SPECIMENS.

Mr. L. Rodway exhibited 10 dried specimens of the daisy tree (*Olearia stellulata*), which he said were classed as one

species, though there were great differences between them. "Species" were a convenient arbitrary grouping, and the only question was where to draw the line. If the plant was only confined to Tasmania there would be no difficulty in forming four species, but it occurred all over Australia. The best thing to do, therefore, was to put all the specimens into one group, and leave it to be split up in the future when someone had some botanical energy to work off. There was a similar condition of true variation going on in regard to the eucalypts, independent of local conditions, and another condition of variation would depend on local conditions. The eucalypts of Australia would never be properly understood until they had been grown from seed under varying conditions. When that was done, one-quarter of the specific names now on the list would be suppressed.

AUGUST 12, 1912.

The usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. Dr. G. H. Butler occupied the chair, and there was a good attendance of members.

Messrs. L. H. Lindon, M.A., and T. A. Tabart, jun., and the Rev. A. Pollard were elected ordinary members of the Society.

On the motion of Mr. L. Rodway, seconded by Mr. J. A. Johnson, Professor Flynn was appointed to represent the Society at the meeting of the Council of the Australasian Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in Melbourne in January next.

Mr. T. Stephens read a short paper on some mineral springs.

In reply to a question, Mr. Stephens said that it was difficult to account for these springs, as there was no vertical height from which a head of water could come. They seemed to him to be boiling straight up from down below. The disappearance of the mounds he could not account for at all.

TASMANIAN MOSSES.

Mr. L. Rodway read his second paper on the classification of the Tasmanian moss flora, stating that during the last 30 years a great deal of work had been done in regard to the mosses by Mr. W. A. Weymouth, and a great many new species had been made. It was due to Mr. Weymouth that he (the speaker) had undertaken the work of reclassification, as that gentleman had no time for the work, and had handed the whole of his collection over to him for the purpose. To go through the whole of the mosses would take six or seven papers of the length of the first one he had read. The society had kindly undertaken the printing of the papers, but as they were somewhat short of money, it was possible that the full series of papers might extend over some years.

LEAF IMPRESSIONS.

Mr. L. Rodway stated that he had planted some seed of the *Eucalyptus risdoni* in his garden, which, as they grew, departed more and more from the type, until they became indistinguishable from the peppermint gum. From this he argued that it was very untrustworthy to classify fossil plants according to their leaf impressions. At last meeting he had shown about a dozen specimens of the common daisy tree, all of which showed marked differences. It was a matter of great importance, from the scientific point of view, to be able to take the life-history of a plant, and see how long it had continued in its present form and what it had descended from. It had generally been believed that when bordered pits were found in fossil wood they indicated that it belonged to the conifers, but exactly the same thing was found in the native pepper tree, which belonged to the magnolias. It was also supposed that the fern-like impressions found in carboniferous strata were made by the fronds of the ancestors of present-day ferns, but there was reason for believing that these ancient fern-like plants were really the predecessors of our present flowering plants, and were not true ferns at all. The oaks and saxifrages belonged to different families, but it was difficult to tell their leaves apart. There was one resemblance he particularly wished to draw attention to, and that was in regard to a *Dracophyllum* or heath, a *Styloidium* or trigger plant, and a plant belonging to a genus of the compositæ. If barren pieces of these three plants were placed before a botanist, he could not tell which was which. These plants were not only not of the same species, but belonged to three very distinct families. The native *Richeas* belonged to the heath tribe, though no one would dream that such was the case from a study of their leaves. It had been stated that the *Eucalyptus* had been traced back to the cretaceous period. Personally, he thought that the eucalypts were a very recent family, and he pointed out that the similarity of the leaf of the eucalyptus and angophora rendered it impossible to say to which leaf impressions belonged. He thought that it was a misfortune that students of palæo-botany had proceeded so much on the lines of the study of animal remains. Plants were much more plastic, and did not run along the same phylogenetic lines as animals.

GENERAL.

Professor Flynn exhibited a piece of a bone from one of the large marsupials that formerly inhabited Tasmania.

Mr. L. G. Irby, collector for the Technological Museum, Sydney, who is gathering material in this State, gave a short account of his work here.

SEPTEMBER 9, 1912.

The usual monthly meeting of the Royal Society was held at the Museum. Hon. G. H. Butler presided, and there was a moderate attendance of members

Professor Flynn read a paper entitled "Notes on Marsupialian Anatomy, pt. iii." It dealt with certain of the internal organs of the Thylacine, or native tiger. In many respects they agreed with those of *Sarcophilus*, the native devil, which belonged to the same group of marsupials as the dasyuride, and were characterised by the same simplicity.

The Chairman stated that Dr. Ireland had promised to read a paper on "Vaccine Treatment of General Blood Infections," but as it dealt purely and simply with a medical subject it was necessary for him to have it read before the British Medical Association. The paper was therefore withdrawn.

A number of water-colour drawings of Tasmanian natives, by F. G. Simpkinson de Wesselow, the property of the Society, were exhibited.

OCTOBER 14, 1912.

A special meeting of the Royal Society was held in the Museum at 8 p.m. Dr. Clarke occupied the chair.

The business of the meeting was to consider a requisition for the purpose of altering Rule 8, so as to fix the annual subscription at 30s.

Mr. Piesse moved the alteration, and Mr. Green seconded it. Professor Flynn supported the motion.

For the successful working of the Society it was considered necessary to raise the subscription from £1 1s. to £1 10s., as in the immediate past.

Messrs. Rodway, Johnson, Kermode, and Chapman opposed the motion upon the ground that it would be better to give the rule another year's trial.

The motion was put to the meeting and lost.

THE QUESTION OF THE SUBSCRIPTION.

A special meeting of the Royal Society of Tasmania was held to consider a proposal to raise the subscription. Dr. A. H. Clarke presided.

Mr. E. L. Piesse (hon. treasurer) moved that the annual subscription be increased to 30s. He said that the subscription had been 30s. for many years, but at the last revision of the rules it was reduced to 21s. for the current year. The reduction in the subscription had slightly increased the membership, but not sufficiently to meet the society's wants. He submitted a statement showing the progress of the Society during the last twelve years. The membership had increased

from an average of 95 to an average of 124. The size and number of illustrations in the society's annual volume of proceedings had much increased, and the cost of printing had grown from about £30 to about £90 a year. It was this increase in the cost of printing that rendered the present revenue insufficient, for expenditure in other directions remained about the same. The publication of proceedings was the most important work of the Society, for it not only was a permanent record of the work of members, but it was the means by which exchanges of the publications of scientific societies throughout the world were obtained. It was essential that the standard of the Society's publications should be maintained, and he hoped that members who made little use of the Society's library and did not attend its meetings regularly would feel that their subscriptions helped in the work of adding to knowledge. The increase to the old amount of 30s. would, with the present number of members, enable the Society to carry on its present work. There were at present 121 members, and the total revenue was £130; whilst the expenditure was £200, so they were £70 to the bad. If they had the same number of members at £1 10s. they would have only been £15 on the wrong side. Last year's expenditure exceeded the revenue by only £17. The position at the end of the year would be that the general account would be overdrawn, but they would have other amounts in hand which would just about keep a credit balance at the bank. They would have to spend £50 per annum on a secretary. Possibly they would be able to get help from the Government to the extent of £30; but the least they could manage on was £150.

Mr. Green seconded the motion.

Mr. L. Rodway said he had taken an active part in getting the subscription reduced, and he did not see any reason for again raising it. The reduction was not the result of a sudden movement. The idea was to extend the membership. He totally disagreed with the mover when the latter contended they had expected a rapid influx of members. With changes of popular opinion the Royal Society did not hold the glamour which once attached to it. They must expect to lose a great many old-fashioned subscriptions, which were given simply because they were the Royal Society. They had three alternatives before them. They must find a secretary who would do the work for nothing. They must reduce their publications, or they might get assistance from the Government. He ventured to think that the Government would give them more than £30 per annum. The Government would publish papers of unusual interest. He had himself a paper to read that evening which he thought would itself cost £30, and the Government had promised to publish it. He believed the Government would spend £50 on publishing his own papers during the coming year. He thought that, in this way, the Society would get aid from the Government equal to £70 or £80. The reduction in the subscription had not been a hurried change, and it had been in existence only a few months. It had not yet received a proper trial. He thought the lower subscription should prevail for three years, and if the membership had not then increased it would be time to again revert to the £1 10s. charge on members.

Professor Flynn said he would like members to look round the room and see the numbers of unbound volumes on their shelves. Every year these remained in their present condition they deteriorated in value. It was likely that every year they would have to increase the number of volumes published. He received letters weekly from Europe asking for copies of his papers, which people were unable to secure in publications. It was all very well to say that if they waited a few years their membership would increase, but by that time they would probably be £150 to the bad.

The motion to increase the subscription was negatived by six votes to four.

OCTOBER 14, 1912.

The usual monthly meeting of the Society was held in the Museum at 8.15 p.m.

Dr. Clarke occupied the chair.

The following new members were elected:—Dr. Maskell and G.O.T. Bagley, Esq.

The Chairman expressed the pleasure of the meeting at seeing upon the walls framed photographs of Messrs. R. M. Johnston, I.S.O., and A. G. Webster, two of the oldest and most useful members of the Society.

The following papers were read:—

1. A Research on the Eucalypts of Tasmania and their Essential Oils, by R. T. Baker, F.L.S., and H. G. Smith, F.C.S. (communicated by L. Rodway).

Mr. Rodway read the introduction, and made several explanatory remarks upon the text. The authors have a strong belief in constancy of products and their bearing upon species, the classification being largely influenced thereby.

Messrs. A. O. Green and J. R. Chapman inquired for further information upon the mainland Messmate.

A vote of thanks was passed to the authors for their valuable contribution, which showed the fine result of great labours.

2. The Mosses of Tasmania, by L. Rodway. Owing to the lateness of the hour, the author briefly referred to the paper, which was taken as read.