

OCTOBER, 1890.

The monthly meeting of this body was held on Monday, October 13. The chair was occupied by the President, His Excellency Sir R. G. C. Hamilton, and there was a good attendance of Fellows. Several ladies were also present.

NEW MEMBERS.

The following gentlemen were elected Fellows :—F. J. Jacobs, J. H. Downie, W. G. Browne, L. Chambers.

Mr T. A. Urquhart, of New Zealand, was elected a corresponding member.

The secretary drew attention to three specimens of Salmonidæ hatched from the late shipment of ova brought out by Sir Thos. Brady, the gift of the Hon. J. W. Agnew. The fish were obtained from the Salmon Ponds, one answering undoubtedly to the description of the true salmon, the other two being unmistakably trout, clearly showing that with all the care and attention paid to the selection of true salmon ova by Sir Thos. Brady, certain ova of trout had been sent out with the late shipment. It was extremely satisfactory to learn that, although there appeared to be a mixture, a very large percentage agreed to the description of the true *Salmo salar*. He also directed attention to the fish caught on Saturday in the Derwent, which, he said, although a very fine fish, did not agree with Gunther's description of the true *Salmo salar*, but similar to the fish recently caught in the Huon by the President. A gentleman passing through Hobart, and whose experience in the matter was that of having been a manager of a Scottish salmon fishery, had viewed the fish, and pronounced it to be a bull trout.

Mr. JOHNSTON questioned whether the different circumstances surrounding the fish in these waters had not occasioned a breakdown of the racial distinctions between the *Salmo salar* and the *Salmo trutta*, together with the theoretical classification of the true *Salmo salar*. The circumstances also tallied with the experience of New Zealand in this matter.

Mr. MAULT asked had this change of the surroundings had any effect upon the quality of the fish.

Mr. JOHNSTON considered the flavour qualities of the fish would be equally affected with the other qualities of the fish. The question he had just raised had never been put to any Home authority. This degeneration of the qualities of the fish was experienced in different waters in Scotland, the finest fish being found in the colder waters.

AUSTRALASIAN ASSOCIATION FOR THE ADVANCEMENT OF SCIENCE.

The Secretary stated that he had received a letter from Professor Hutton, of the Canterbury University, Christchurch, New Zealand, stating that the New Zealand Government had passed a vote of £500, and that the Government Printer had been instructed to do all the printing required by the Association free of charge; also that the hon. sec. had been authorised to frank all telegrams, letters and parcels in connection with the Association. The meeting to take place in January, 1891, and considering that the next meeting would be held in Hobart the following January, 1892, it was to be hoped the Government would act as liberally as the New Zealand, Victorian, and New South Wales Governments had done, the two latter having voted sums each to the Association.

Mr. R. M. JOHNSTON said as the New Zealand gathering was approaching it would be well to get an expression of opinion from the

people of the colony and the Government as to the welcome which would be extended to the Association, because this should be ascertained before the meeting in question, so that the representatives of Tasmania might be in a position to reiterate their previous invitation to the Society to hold its 1892 meeting in Hobart. He moved that the Council wait on the Government, and ascertain what they are willing to do in the matter.

The motion was agreed to.

ANTARCTIC EXPEDITION.

A subscription list for this Expedition was laid on the table.

TASMAN'S JOURNAL.

Mr. J. B. WALKER read a paper on "Notes on the localities mentioned in the journal of Tasman's discovery of Tasmania." In this he sketched the two voyages made by Tasman, in the first of which he discovered Tasmania and New Zealand (1642), and in the second of which he explored the west, north-west, and north coasts of Australia and the Gulf of Carpentaria (1644.) These voyages completed the circumnavigation of New Guinea and Australia. The writer then proceeded to identify the parts of the Coast mentioned by Tasman, and the conclusion he had arrived at regarding the land fall made by the discoverer was that it was the high land north of Macquarie Harbour. He then proceeded to discuss the site of Tasman's anchorage on the East Coast near Cape Frederick Henry, and pointed out that the name of Frederick Henry Bay, now applied to part of Storm Bay, was originally given by Tasman to what is now known by the name of Blackman's Bay.

Mr. MAULT described a method in which he had traced Tasman's land fall, fixing it slightly further south than Mr. Walker. There were three maps in the British Museum among the additional manuscripts, No. 8,946, which had never been published. It would be well if the Government could be got to publish these.

NEW TASMANIAN SPIDERS.

Mr. MORTON stated that he had lately been making a collection of Tasmanian spiders. Some of them he was unable to determine, and had forwarded to Mr. A. T. Urquhart, of New Zealand, the collection for examination. Mr. Urquhart was one of the best authorities in the colonies on spiders, and on examining the collection he had found some new species of the genus *Eperida* five new kinds of that genus, two new species of the genus *Thalassoma*, while he had been able to form two new genera which he had named *Alrea* and *Collina*. Accompanying the paper was a plate of the species referred to.

OSTRICH FARMING.

Mr. JAMES ANDREW read a paper on the subject of ostrich farming, and the possibilities of successfully introducing this industry into Tasmania. The remarks set forth were based on personal observation of wild ostriches, and experience of the management of the bird in a domesticated state. After a brief sketch of the bird and its habits, together with some of the uses to which the eggs are put by Bushmen, the writer proceeded to deal with the subject of ostrich farming, and pointed out that the Egyptians were the first people who had undertaken the taming and utilisation of the bird. The first modern step in this direction occurred rather less than 30 years ago in Cape Colony. It was not necessary to have large enclosures in which to confine the domesticated birds for herding purposes, but each pair required to be separated. The male bird was most pugnacious during the nesting season, and could only be approached in safety with great precaution. The formid-

able character of a kick from an ostrich was exemplified by the fact that at Graff Reinets the back of a horse was broken by one such blow. The best means of escaping injury when attacked by the bird was to lie down and submit to the inevitable pummelling he would administer. The writer inclined to the natural hatching of the eggs by the birds as preferable to the use of incubators, although the incubator was an essential appliance for use in the case of emergencies. The process of clipping and preparing the plumage for market was described, followed by examples of high prices paid a few years ago—the halcyon days of ostrich farming for both bird and plumage. The growth of the industry in Cape Colony was such that from 80 tame ostriches in 1865, in 10 years the total had reached 32,247, and the export of feathers was 49,969lb., valued at £304,933, and in 1882 feathers were exported to the value of £1,093,939. Recent statistics showed that the supply had exceeded the demand, and the enormous profits arising in the past from the sale of the young birds and feathers would never again be realised, but substantial recompense would still be earned by a skilful and intelligent management. The bird could be raised in any temperate climate, and dry level wastes might be found suitable for the industry. In Africa the birds had so lost their value they were not worth recovering when they strayed, and it was proposed to repeal the Act protecting the bird.

COMPLIMENTARY.

The PRESIDENT moved the usual vote of thanks to the contributors of papers, after which the meeting adjourned.