

commander of the government schooner *Eliza*, tells me that he was not himself waked by the *motion*, but by his wife, who was much terrified by the phenomenon. An intelligent but unfortunate person, of the name of Thomas, many years ago pilot upon the Tamar, and now residing upon Clarke's Island, tells me that he distinctly perceived the shock, having been then driven ashore upon Cape Barren Island, where he was lying at the moment wind-bound, awake, and earnestly, as he says, watching the state of the weather."

Near Launceston on the 18th August the weather was fine and clear, with a southerly wind—as it had been for the two previous days. The barometer at 9 a. m. indicated 29.846, attached thermometer 48° Fahr. Thermometer in the air and shade, 46°; at 3 p. m. the barometer was 29.759; attached thermometer, 53; and thermometer in the air and shade, 53. No shock of an earthquake was perceived.

At the Magnetic Observatory, Hobart Town, no unusual disturbance was observed.—Ed. *Tasm. Journ.*

ALSOPHILA AUSTRALIS.

MR. BACKHOUSE, in his interesting visit to the Australian colonies, speaking of Philip's Island, Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania, says "We walked over the island, and down one of its sides, which was woody, and which exhibited the finest tree-ferns we had seen, and in great profusion. They were of two kinds, one of which we did not meet with elsewhere. Some of their larger fronds or leaves were thirteen feet long, making the diameter of the crest twenty-six feet. The stems were of all degrees of elevation, up to twenty-five or thirty feet; some of them, at the lower part, were as stout as a man's body; those of *Cibotium Billardieri* were covered with roots on the outside: the whole length of those of the other species—*Alsophila Australis*—was clothed with the bases of old leaves, which were rough like the stems of raspberries, closely tiled over each other, and pointing upwards."

The *Alsophila Australis*, as also the *Cibotium Billardieri* (*Dicksonia Antarctica*, Labill.) grow at the Asbestos Hills, near York Town; but I observed the base of the trunk of the *Alsophila* to be covered with coarse root-like fibres, although to a very much less extent than in the *Dicksonia*. The fronds too are differently shaped—those of the *Alsophila* being much broader in the middle, and tapering off more rapidly towards the extremity. The young ones, before expansion, are covered with chaffy scales very different from the fine soft hair-like down which clothes the bases of the fronds of the *Dicksonia*.—R. C. GUNN, *Launceston*.

FULICA TASMANICA ?

WHEN at Arthur's Lakes in March, 1843, I shot a small *Coot*, the only specimen of the genus which I have ever met with in the island: it must be extremely rare. I have called it *Fulica Tasmanica?* Upper parts dusky slate colour; under parts, dark ashy-grey; head and neck, black; frontal plate white, and of small size; bill, greenish; tarsi and feet, black; about thirteen inches long. Length from carpus to second quill, 7 5-10ths inches; ditto of bill, 1 4-10ths; ditto tarsus, 2; external toe and claw, 2 5-10ths; ditto middle ditto, 3 3-10ths: ditto internal ditto, 2 5-10ths; ditto hallux, 1 2-10ths.—JAMES GRANT, *Launceston*.

Rapacity of Tasmanian Fish.

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THYLACINUS HARRISIL.

THERE is a peculiarity of structure in the incisor teeth of the young *Thylacine*, which soon wears off with age, and may therefore have escaped general observation. The incisor teeth of the lower jaw are deeply *channelled* transversely, and when the mouth is closed those of the upper jaw fit accurately into the groove thus formed in the lower.

I am not aware that this structure is found in any other animal.—
JAMES GRANT, *Launceston*.

ON THE FOSSIL BONES AT MOUNT MACEDON—PORT PHILLIP.

THE road to Mount Macedon from Melbourne is over a well marked volcanic country, rising very gradually, and almost imperceptibly. These elevated plains are covered with vesicular lava and scoria, and are interrupted occasionally by deep ravines; the sides of which, in many places, display well marked basaltic columns. The *Bone* locality is a large amphitheatre almost surrounded by conical volcanic hills; the centre of the amphitheatre is on a much higher plain than its periphery, and on the top of the little truncated cone there is a marshy looking place covered by a peaty looking vegetation, and the soil itself has much the character of peat for three or four feet below the surface. Under the peat is a bed of gravel, in which the bones are deposited in vast quantities, but from there being immediately beneath the gravel a bed of firm ferruginous clay, the water is unable to escape; and in consequence, at this period of the year, it is a work of great labour to obtain any bones, and quite impossible to get them without mutilation, owing to the water pouring in to the part dug so fast as to prevent your seeing what you are about. Notwithstanding all this, and that we were there only one day, I succeeded in getting one incisor of an enormous Rodent, fully *twelve inches long and one and a quarter inches broad*, with three huge molars fully *four times as large as those of a Rhinoceros*; with bones of the gigantic Kangaroo and those of some large cursorial bird, probably an Emu. The marsh or bog is of the extent of about four acres, and appears to contain bones at every point—*Extract from a letter by Dr. E. C. Hobson, dated January, 1845, to Mr. Ronald C. Gunn, Launceston.*

RAPACITY OF TASMANIAN FISH.

JESSIE, in his Gleanings, mentions one or two instances of the great rapacity of the Pike: I do not think that it equals that of the Shark of this country (Van Diemen's Land), or surpasses that of the Flathead. It is very common in fishing for either of these fish, after losing several hooks, to regain them all in fish subsequently caught, not uncommonly *all in one*. It has frequently occurred to me that these rapacious fish appear to be actuated by a spirit of revenge; for should one be wounded by a hook, it will be the first to fly at a second bait, although the water may teem with fish of the same description; this is sometimes the case with Flatheads, but almost invariably so with Sharks: I have known it occur at sea, by one whose jaw has been most severely lacerated. The two following anecdotes are offered in elucidation: of the circumstances of the first, many gentlemen besides myself, still residing in this colony, were witnesses.

About eight years since a party of gentlemen, myself included, pro-

ceeded to the River Don, near the mouth of which we stopped to dine. The water was literally alive with Sharks, about four feet long ; one of which, whilst a man was cleaning some mullet for our dinner, seized one of the fish that had been cleaned and laid down at the man's feet on the edge of the water. Whilst the shark was making his escape the man struck at him with his knife, and severely wounded him in the head. At the close of our dinner, and whilst we were still sitting in a circle round the remnants, we were startled by a loud exclamation, and a shark tumbling in the midst of us, apparently for the purpose of joining our feast, with the maxim of "better late than never." The fact was, that a powerful young Irishman was washing a glass at the beach, when the shark made a dash at his hand ; he, however, "caught a Tartar," as the Irishman seized him by his gills, and uttering the before-mentioned exclamation, threw him backwards over his head, and thus caused the Shark to pay us his unexpected visit. The wonder, however, is still to come : this Shark proved to be identical with that wounded in the head half an hour before, although they were in myriads about. Our dinner party now immediately broke up, and we proceeded to form rather a novel kind of shooting party : one threw a mullet, tied to a string, into the water, and drawing it gently towards the beach, the Sharks followed and were shot. In this manner many were killed.

One evening, about sun-set, I was fishing for Flathead at George's River, in a very small narrow gig-shaped dingy, when I observed a large Shark, fully nine feet long, coming towards me, with his enormous mouth wide open, and the tip of his nose on a level with the water. As the gunwale of the dingy could not have been more than four inches out of the water, I thought he intended making a spring at me ; accordingly I met him, when at the distance of about five feet, with a blow of the paddle on the head. This caused him to sheer off, though he immediately returned, and getting under the bottom of the dingy apparently endeavoured to capsize her. It was not until I had struck him several times with the paddle that he desisted from his attempt, and went away. Upon this I immediately went on shore, and having told the men to come to my assistance with the whale boat, should the dingy get capsized, I provided myself with a harpoon, and went back to the place we had parted company. I had not been there more than two minutes when I saw him making towards me with a will.

With the harpoon I struck him hard, but it did not hold : he again took his departure, and night coming on, I deemed "discretion the better part of valour," and followed his example.—R. H. DAVIES, *Westbury*.

LAUNCESTON HORTICULTURAL SOCIETY.

THIS Society was formed in the year 1838, by an association amongst some of the inhabitants adopting the plan of the numerous societies then spreading throughout England. It was assisted at first by the private munificence of Sir John and Lady Franklin ; and the interest and novelty of its exhibitions having attracted considerable support, the Society enlarged their plans, and obtained a grant of seven acres of land, within the limits of the town, from the government. A sum of £700 was then voluntarily raised by the inhabitants, which has been expended in fencing the grounds and erecting the necessary buildings. The entrance to the gardens, consisting of a Lodge in the Grecian style with ornamental gates, and a small Green-house attached to the building, forms a handsome termination to one of the main streets. There is also a large open Pavilion, used for the exhibitions of the Society, built

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in the form of a cross, substantially roofed, but open at the sides, being 102 feet long and 47 feet wide; and several borders have been planted with both deciduous and native shrubs. The objects of the Society in the establishment of their Gardens, in addition to the health and recreation of the inhabitants, are stated by them in their memorial to the government, to be the introduction and climatising of plants, as well from England as from the warmer countries of the northern hemisphere; as a place of experimental research on the properties of the native plants of the island; as a means of imbuing the minds of the young with a taste and love of gardening, who in a new country are but ill provided with means of recreation; last, as a station whence the most valuable and ornamental plants might be collected and distributed throughout the country.

The Society have had the means, through the opportunity of their President's (the Rev. R. R. Davies) stay in London, of establishing a communication and interchange of plants and seeds with the Horticultural Society of London, with Mr. Vanstraelen of Brussels, the Messrs. Loddiges, of Hackney, &c., and they have begun and hope permanently to keep on foot a similar exchange with the neighbouring colonies. Unfortunately the depression existing in agriculture and trade has caused a check in the Society's means, and being prevented from obtaining the assistance of government laborers, and having no government aid, can make but slow progress in the attainment of its objects. It has, however, already imported largely, and brought into notice a number of valuable English fruits and plants existing in the colony but not before recognised, and exhibited satisfactory proof of the advantages which such an institution is calculated to confer upon the community.

CATALOGUE OF BOOKS IN THE FRANKLIN MUSEUM.
ANCANTHE.

| <i>Title of Work.</i> | <i>Donor.</i> |
|--|------------------------|
| 1 Jameson's Australia and New Zealand | - J. F. Buckland, Esq. |
| 2 Romance of Nature | - Authoress |
| 3 Polar Regions | - Lady Franklin |
| 4 Henslowe's Botany | - F. H. Henslowe, Esq. |
| 5 Knox's Poetic Trifles | - Author |
| 6 Progress of Australia | - Mr. Ferguson |
| 7 Achill Mission | - Sir J. Franklin |
| 8 Mann's Australian Provinces | - |
| 9 Hovell's and Hume's Journey to Port Phillip | Lady Franklin |
| 10 Threlkeld's Australian Grammar | - ditto |
| 11, 12, 13, 14 Colonial Magazine, 1, 2, 3, 4 | David Burns, Esq. |
| 15 Ward's New Zealand | - J. F. Buckland, Esq. |
| 16 Fauna of New Zealand | - Dr. Richardson |
| 17 Petre's New Zealand | - J. F. Buckland, Esq. |
| 18 Herschell's Meteorological Observations | - Author |
| 19 Rev. J. Y. Wilson's Address to Inhabitants of Portland Bay | - ditto |
| 20 How to Colonise | - |
| 21 Proceedings of the Royal Astronomical Society | - Sir J. Franklin |
| 22 Owen on an Australian Mastodontoid Pachyderm | - Author |
| 23 Richardson's Ichthyology of New Zealand | - ditto |

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| | <i>Title of Work.</i> | <i>Donor.</i> |
|----------------------------|---|------------------------|
| 24 | Useful Hints to Emigrants - - - - | J. F. Buckland, Esq. |
| 25 | Campbell's New Zealand - - - - | ditto |
| 26, 27, 28, 29, 30 | Grant's Outline of Comparative Anatomy - - - - | Author |
| 31 | On Steam Power - - - - | F. Colson, Esq. |
| 32 | Mineral Veins - - - - | R. W. Fox, Esq. |
| 33 | Chivalry of the Mercantile Marine - - | Lady Franklin |
| 34 | Burns' Vindication of Van Diemen's Land | Author |
| 35 | Loch's System of Education - - - - | ditto |
| 36 | Call Ritter's New Zealand - - - - | J. F. Buckland, Esq. |
| 38 | Teichelman's Australian Vocabulary - | Lady Franklin |
| 38 | Bishop of Australia's Speech to Legislative Council - - - - | Rev. T. J. Ewing |
| 39 | Statistics of Western Australia - - - - | ditto |
| 40, 41, 42, 43 | Proceedings of Zoological Society, 1837, 1838, 1840, 1841 - - - - | Sir J. Franklin |
| 44, 45 | Proceedings of Zoological Society, 1842, 1843 - - - - | Zoological Society |
| 46 | Ogle's Western Australia - - - - | Miss Williamson |
| 47, 48, 49, 50 | Arago's Voyage Autour du Monde | M. Verreaux |
| 51, 52 | Sturt's Australia - - - - | W. P. Kay, Esq. |
| 53 | Stephen's South Australia - - - - | Rev. J. P. Gell |
| 54 | Backhouse's Australia - - - - | Author |
| 55 | Capper's Australia - - - - | Judge Jeffcott |
| 56 | Picture of Sydney - - - - | |
| 57 | — of New Zealand - - - - | |
| 58 | Future Prospects of New South Wales - | E. S. P. Bedford, Esq. |
| 59 | Howitt's Colonization and Christianity - | Lady Franklin |
| 60 | True Catholic - - - - | Author |
| 61 | Allwood's Papal Claims - - - - | ditto |
| 62, 63 | Burns' Plays and Fugitive Pieces - - | ditto |
| 64 | Fry's Apostolical Succession - - - - | Rev. J. P. Gell |
| 65 | Papers on New Zealand - - - - | J. Buckland, Esq. |
| 66, 67 | Monograph of Macropodidæ, 1, 2 - - - | James Grant, Esq. |
| 68 | Lewin's Birds of New South Wales - - | Rev. T. J. Ewing |
| 69 | Phillips' Voyage - - - - | C. J. Latrobe, Esq. |
| 70 | Hunter's New South Wales - - - - | W. P. Ashburner, Esq. |
| 71 | Lloyd's Magnetic Observations - - - - | Sir J. C. Ross |
| 72 | Directions for Preserving Animals - - | Author |
| 73 | Statistical Return of Van Diemen's Land, 1824—1838 - - - - | Sir J. Franklin |
| 74 | Ewing's Statistics of Van Diemen's Land - | ditto |
| 75 | Report on Transportation - - - - | ditto |
| 76 | Prison Discipline - - - - | ditto |
| 77, 78, 79, 80, 81, 82, 83 | Gould's Birds of Australia, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15 - - - | |
| 84, 85, 86 | Hawksworth's Voyages - - - - | Rev. J. P. Gell |
| 87 | Report of British Association, 1843 - - | British Association |
| 88 | Jameson's New Zealand - - - - | Capt. Portlock |
| 89, 90 | Franklin's Expeditions - - - - | Sir J. Franklin |
| 91 | Friend of Australia - - - - | J. A. F. Simpkinson |
| 92 | Dawson's Australia - - - - | J. Ferard, Esq. |
| 93 | Petre's New Zealand - - - - | Mrs. Majendie |
| 95, 96, 97, 98 | Reports of the British Association | British Association |
| 99 | Overland Journey to Macquarie Harbour - | |
| 100 | Southey on Sheep and Wool - - - - | A. Majendie, Esq. |

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| <i>Title of Work.</i> | <i>Donor.</i> |
|--|----------------------|
| 101 On the Culture of the Grape Vine and Orange, in Australia, by George Sutton - - - | Mrs. Simpkinson |
| 102 New Zealand and the New Zealanders, by E. Dieffenbach - - - | Miss Grahame |
| 103 Dawson's Present State of Australia - - - | John Ferard, Esq. |
| 104 Friend of Australia, by a Retired Officer - - | J. A. F. Simpkinson |
| 105 Lady Darling's Young Christian's Sunday Mornings - - - | Author |
| 106 Petre's Settlements of the New Zealand Com- pany - - - | Frances Majendie |
| 107 Lady Darling's Simple Rules of Humble Life - - - | Author |
| 108 Second Report of the Western Australian As- sociation - - - | Joseph Cross |
| 109 Brockett's Narrative of a Voyage from Syd- ney to Torres Straits, &c. - - - | ditto |
| 110 Evidences of an Inland Sea, collected from the Natives of the Swan River Settlement, by Hon. G. F. Moore - - - | ditto |
| 111 Mears on British Colonization - - - | ditto |
| 112 Twelve Months in Wellington, Port Nichol- son, by Lieut. John Wood, R.N. - - - | ditto |
| 113 Lang's New Zealand in 1839 - - - | M. L. Simpkinson |
| 114 Nelson, the latest settlement of the New Zealand Company - - - | Anna Simpkinson |
| 115 Professor Ritter's Colonization of New Zea- land, translated from the German - - | G. Dollond, F.R.S. |
| 116 Latest Information from the Settlement of New Plymouth, New Zealand - - - | Emma Cracroft |
| 117 Recent Information respecting Port Phillip | Charles Richard Weld |
| 118 The Resources of Australia - - - | Montagu Blackett |
| 119 The present State and Condition of the Co- lony of Western Australia, with Statistical Report, &c. - - - | Joseph Cross |
| 120 The present State, Resources, and Prospects of New Zealand, by Edward Campbell - | Mrs. Cracroft |
| 121 Reasons for Promoting the Cultivation of the New Zealand Flax, by E. D. Bell and F. Young, jun. - - - | A. M. Dixon |
| 122 Chapman's New Zealand Portfolio - - - | G. Dollond, F.R.S. |
| 123 Atkinson on Agriculture and Grazing in New South Wales - - - | Joseph Cross |
| 124 Journal of Expeditions in Western Australia, during the years 1829, 30, 31, 32 - - | ditto |
| 125 The Field of Honor, by Anne Flinders - - | Author |
| 126 Felix de Lisle, by ditto - - - | ditto |
| 127 Confessions of an Apostate, by ditto - - | ditto |
| 128 Parker's Van Diemen's Land, &c. with Advice to Emigrants - - - | Joseph Cross |
| 129 History of the Island of Van Diemen's Land | J. N. Simpkinson |
| 130 The Gipsy King, and other poems, by Richard Howitt - - - | Sophia Cracroft |
| 131 Rev. M. Hartrey's Address to New Zealand Colonists - - - | Susan Huggins |
| 132 Bennett's Historical and Descriptive Account of South Australia - - - | Louisa Herring |

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| <i>Title of Work.</i> | <i>Donor.</i> |
|---|----------------------|
| 133 Ward's Supplementary Information relative to New Zealand | G. Raymond Portal |
| 134 A Month in the Bush of Australia | Joseph Cross |
| 135 Potter Macqueen's Australia, as she is, and as she may be | ditto |
| 136 Diffenbach's Travels in New Zealand | Ann Ferard |
| 137 Hooker's Musci Exotici | Author |
| 138 Beale's Natural History, &c. of the Sperm Whale | Catherine Euys |
| 139 Mudie on the Felony of New South Wales | Rev. W.H. Guillemard |
| 140 Scenes and Tales of Country Life | Mary Simpkinson |
| 141 Western Australia; compiled for the use of Settlers | G. Dollond, F.R.S. |
| 132 Picture of Australia | Cath. A. Kawnsley |
| 143 Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes. Historique. Atlas. by MM. Leseur et Petit. | Lady Franklin |
| 144 Voyage de Découvertes aux Terres Australes, by Péron and Freycinet | Lady Franklin |
| 145 Sabine's Observations on Days of Unusual Magnetic Disturbance, &c. | H. M. Government |
| 146 Sabine's Contributions to Terrestrial Magnetism | Author |
| 147 Reports of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, for 1831 to 1842, inclusive | British Association |
| 148 London Journal of Botany, vol. i. Nos. 13 to 33, inclusive, by Sir W. J. Hooker, F.R.A. | Author |
| 149 Judge Burton on Religion and Education in New South Wales | Joseph Cross, Esq. |
| 150 The Parochial System. A Sermon preached in the Cathedral Church of St. David, Hobart Town, at the ordination of Rev. J. P. Gell, M.A., by the Ven. Archdeacon Marriott | Author |
| 151 A Summer at Port Phillip, by Hon. Dundas Murray | Susan Huggins |
| 152 Narrative of an Expedition to the Polar Sea, in the years 1820, 21, 22, and 23, commanded by Lieut. F. Von Wrangell, Russian Imperial Navy. Edited by Lieut.-Colonel Sabine, R.A. | Elizabeth Sabine |

RULES OF THE LIBRARY OF THE FRANKLIN MUSEUM. ANCANTHE. 1844.

- I. THAT the books admissible into the Library be of three classes only.
 - A. Works illustrative of Tasmania and the neighbouring colonies.
 - B. Works written by authors who are, or have been, inhabitants of Tasmania.
 - C. Works printed and published in Tasmania, unless of a kind objected to by the Trustees.
- II. That the books be taken out of the Library with the permission of one of the Trustees.
- III. That they be called in once every year, in the month of December.

MINUTES OF THE TASMANIAN SOCIETY.

Launceston, June 4, 1844.

Read a letter from the Rev. J. P. Gell, dated May 21, 1844, conveying his resignation of the office of Secretary to the Tasmanian Society.

Mr. Ronald C. Gunn was requested to accept the office of Secretary to the Society, vice Mr. Gell.

Specimens of greenstone, which had been recently fused, were exhibited by R. H. Davies, Esq. Mr. Davies stated that a Road Party near Westbury had formed the greenstone into large heaps with firewood and burnt it, with a view to making the stone more frangible for metalling the road; and the rock thus heated had in many instances become fused.

Lieut. W. H. Breton, R.N., exhibited a *fossil Echinus*, picked up on the beach at Ralph's Bay, near Hobart Town; and observed that he had not heard of any fossil *Echini* having been previously found in Tasmania.

August 30, 1844.

Read, "Miscellaneous Notes on the Natural History of Tasmania;" by Lieut. W. H. Breton, R. N.

Ronald C. Gunn, Esq., exhibited various geological specimens, collected by him at Port Phillip. In a recent ferruginous sandstone in the vicinity of Melbourne, and which is the principal stone used there for building purposes, occur very perfect casts of various shells, such as *Haliotis*, *Patella*, *Venus?* and spines of *Cidaris*, the latter abundant.

A still more recent sandstone formation, containing comminuted shells, in a very slightly altered state, extends for several miles from Geelong along the side of the Barraboul Hills, which are themselves volcanic. Specimens of two kinds of limestone from Geelong were shown. One which occurs on the south side of the Bay is very fine grained, and contains a few very small (apparently fresh-water) shells.

Mr. Gunn also exhibited, with a view to their analysis, a beautiful mineral salt from Lake Carangamite, Port Phillip, which is sold at Geelong at thirty shillings per ton, but it is asserted that meat pickled with it has not kept well; and a black sand from the beach at Port Phillip, the specific gravity of which was only 1.3, and which was only slightly magnetic.

September 27, 1844.

J. R. Kenworthy and W. Paton, Esqrs., were elected members.

Read a paper "On some fossil Bones discovered at Mount Macedon, Port Phillip, by Dr. Edmund C. Hobson." (Printed at page 208, vol ii. of the Tasmanian Journal.)

Read "Observations on the heaps of recent shells which exist along the shores of Tasmania," by Mr. Ronald C. Gunn. The author observes that the immense quantities of marine shells formed into mounds of considerable size, and in many places becoming rapidly mixed with the soil, along the shores of the colony, were collected by the aborigines, who subsisted principally upon shell-fish when living on the coasts. The shells are principally species of Mussel, Oyster, *Haliotis*, Turbo, Patella, Fasciolaria, Cardium, and some smaller species. These are so abundant in some places, as to give rise to the idea that they are raised beaches; and the object of the author, in writing the present paper, was to remove that impression.

Mr. James Grant exhibited a specimen of a species of Coot, which he believed to be new, and which is very rare. He called it *Fulica Tasmanica*.

Mr. Ronald C. Gunn exhibited specimens of the bark of *Marquisia Billardieri*, and suggested that perhaps the bark of this shrub, as also that of the *Coprosma*, so abundant in the colony, might possess some of the properties of the *Cinchona*, to which they were allied. The bark of *Marquisia* tasted somewhat similar to that of *Cinchona*.

It was resolved, that in future the members should meet the first Wednesday in every month.

November 6, 1844.

Read "Account of an Earthquake at Flinders' Island, 18th August, 1844; with additional observations, by Joseph Milligan, Esq." No shock was felt at Launceston, and it does not appear that any unusual disturbance was observed at the Magnetic Observatory, Hobart Town.

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Dr. W. R. Pugh exhibited some beautiful recent dissections of the heads of Tasmanian snakes, to illustrate the peculiarity of the teeth and poison apparatus.

Mr. R. C. Gunn exhibited specimens of two species of Tasmanian *Tree Fern*, viz. the *Dicksonia antarctica*, Labill., and *Alsophila australis*, Br. The *Dicksonia* is common in almost every shaded valley in the colony ; but Mr. Gunn observed that he had not seen the *Alsophila* except at George Town and the Asbestos hills. In both localities the *Alsophila* was growing in a more open, and less shaded situation than that usually affected by the *Dicksonia*.

December 4, 1844.

Godfrey Howitt, M.D. of Melbourne, William Westgarth, Esq. of Melbourne, and C. S. Henty, Esq. of Launceston, were elected members.

A letter from Colonel Sabine, dated 28th May, 1844, to the Secretary of the Tasmanian Society was read. It conveyed the gratifying information, that the Council of the British Association for the Advancement of Science, had unanimously resolved that the Tasmanian Society should be added to the list of public institutions entitled to receive gratuitously the annual volume of the Reports of the British Association ; and that a complete set of the reports from the period of the first meeting at York in 1831, should further be presented to the Society.

Read a letter from the Secretary of the Geological Society, acknowledging the receipt of Nos. 6 and 7, of the Tasmanian Journal.

Dr. Grant read a paper " On the Reproductive Organs of the Marsupialia and Monotremata."

March 5, 1845.

Lieut. Smith, R.N., Magnetic Observatory, Hobart Town ; J. A. F. Simpkinson, Esq., R.N. ditto ; — Jeffery, Esq., R.N. ditto ; were elected members.

Specimens of some fossil bones from Mount Macedon, Port Phillip, were exhibited, and a short account of the locality in which they are found, by Dr. E. C. Hobson, was read.

Mr. R. C. Gunn exhibited specimens of *Claudea elegans*, Lam., a beautiful Alga, from George Town ; an account of which, with a plate, is