

Royal Society.

The monthly meeting of the Royal Society, was held last evening in the Art Gallery. The chair was occupied by Mr U. H. Grant.

NEW FELLOWS.

The following new fellows were elected Messrs. Malcolm Harrison and W. A. Kermode.

AN INTERESTING PAPER.

A very interesting paper was read by Mr A. Morison, prepared by Messrs. W. H. Twelvetree, F.G.S., and W. F. Petterd, C.M.Z.S. This dealt with a group of mollusca found near George Town. The paper was accompanied with some very beautiful illustrations. Mr R. M. Johnston said that the paper was of the highest degree of importance and should be encouraged by the Royal Society. The Messrs. Twelvetree and Petterd had not only worked in the direction of mollusca but had gone fully into mineralogy. Their work was highly valuable to the Society, whose thanks was due to these gentlemen's investigations.

TELEGRAPHY WITHOUT WIRES.

Mr Thomas Self, Electrician to the Government Electric Department, read a very valuable paper on telegraphy without wires. This was the first time on record in Tasmania that this system of telegraphy had been brought efficiently before the public. There were two transmitters—one in the lecture room and one in the second art gallery. The door connecting the two rooms was shut, but the wave of electricity was sufficiently strong to send a message from one room to another, a distance of over 50 feet being bridged by the current. Mr Self gave a thorough technical description of electricity up to date, and made his paper all the more interesting by a series of experiments.

Hon. U. H. Grant said that telegraphy without wires was an up-to-date science. It could be sent over considerable distances, across rivers and lakes. The science of electricity was progressing with leaps and bounds, and they had to get a deal of information on this subject. He believed telegraphy without wires had been carried a distance of some four miles.

Mr A. J. Taylor explained that electricity was simply waves of vibration which produced certain effects.

EXCAVATIONS IN EGYPT.

Rev. E. Pollock, F.R.G.S., gave one of the most instructive and interesting lectures on ancient and modern Egypt that has been heard within the walls of the Museum building for years. Mr Pollock has travelled through Egypt, and as he travelled he kept his eyes open. Some people who travel do not keep their eyes open. People of this class might as well be sent to Ostland, for all the light and information they can throw on antiquity and up-to-date science. If Mr Pollock had not kept his eyes open he would have been mentally incapacitated from enlightening and instructing a crowded audience as he did last evening. Of course, a good deal of what he did say is a matter of history, but there was a very great deal told by him which was new and told in a manner which was fresh to a Hobart audience. He did not burden his remarks with that superfluous matter which envelopes some lectures like a death shroud. He started from scratch, about 7000 years ago, on the banks of the Suez Canal, and having shown a few scenes along the course of the canal, had his audience in Cairo in a brace of shakes. Rapidly running through the various spots of interest in Cairo, he soon conveyed those he was trying to entertain under the Sphinx (the oldest known mountain in the world) and beneath the pyramids. He is very rich in descriptive power. Mr Pollock has a pleasing resonant voice which rang out to the remotest corner of the room. Of course, the great difficulty was for him to come to the end of his paper. He did not, however, did it perhaps not to his own satisfaction, but entirely to the satisfaction of those who listened to him. The views were excellent. They embraced scenes on the Nile, in the desert and out of the desert, in the tomb and outside of the tomb, in the mosques and outside the mosques. His description of the papyrus writing, the tracing of the ancient kings, and the description of the various monuments, etc., was most entertaining. At the conclusion of the lecture a hearty vote of thanks was tendered to the readers of papers.

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