

Fleurieu Bay was now called Oyster Bay, Fleurieu Island was Cape Barren Island, and when he went to Port Cygnet to see the Fleurieu River of the old charts he found that it was called the Agnes Rivulet. He then gave a description of the expeditions sent out by France, and of the work done by Flinders up to the time of his arrival at the Isle of France, where he was detained a prisoner for six years. He defended the French from the charges which had been made against them of having copied Flinders's charts, and pointed out that the French charts, in some cases, dealt with portions of the coast, especially on the north and west of Australia, that Flinders had never visited. In regard to nomenclature, he pointed out the necessity of adhering, as far as possible, to the original names, especially those that bore a historic signification. A number of the early charts of Tasmania were then shown by means of an optical lantern. Commencing with the charts of Tasman, the lecturer explained them, and, following on, dealt with those of Marion, Furneaux, D'Entrecasteaux, Hayes, and Flinders. He also compared the French charts with those of Flinders, showing the differences that existed between them. In concluding, the lecturer spoke of the necessity of preserving the names given by the early explorers. If there was a section of the Royal Society devoted to history and geography, he hoped they would take the matter up. If they did so, he believed that the French Government would be glad to send them copies of maps and documents dealing with the matter. If they put back in Tasmanian nomenclature certain names given by the early French and English explorers, they would be adding to the ties which drew the French towards Tasmania, and foster the feelings of sympathy that there were between them.

His Excellency said that the lecture was hardly one that opened up discussion. He was in sympathy with the Comte de Fleurieu, however, in his suggestion that the names given by the grand old explorers should not be allowed to die out, and he thought that they also sympathised with him upon his own historical name having been omitted from our maps. If it was possible to restore the old names, he hoped it would be done. He asked that a vote of thanks to the lecturer might be carried by acclamation, which was done.

The proceedings then terminated.

SEPTEMBER 11, 1911.

The general monthly meeting of the society was held at the Museum in the evening, at 8 o'clock.

Hon. G. H. Butler, a vice-president, occupied the chair.

The Secretary to the Council announced the receipt of eleven handsome volumes detailing the work of the Harriman Alaskan expedition.

The Chairman explained that two offers had been made to the society for a portfolio of drawings in their possession. The meeting decided it should be sold, and fixed the price at £100, the proceeds of sale to be invested as the Council may deem fit, and the interest used as the Council may decide.

The following paper was read:—

“The Connection of Swifts with Weather,” by Stuart Dove, F.Z.S. The writer detailed a number of observations which tended to show that the swifts appeared immediately before atmospheric disturbances. Ants in the winged state formed a large part of the food of the swift in this country, and the writer had noticed that the winged ants issued from their nests more particularly during the damp and close weather which precedes weather changes. It had occurred to him that the frequent appearance of the swifts shortly before or after atmospheric disturbances might be due to their winged food occurring more plentifully at those times.

Mr. T. Stephens exhibited a piece of bone which had been found by his son when engaged in laying out the route of the Stanley-Balfour railway near Circular Head. The bone had been found in the same district as the large bones of the extinct animal which had been discovered in Mowbray Swamp. He had sent the bone, which was very hard and polished, to Dr. Hall, of the biological department of the Melbourne University, but the species of animal to which it belonged could not be determined.

Mr. Stephens further drew attention to the discovery on the Australian Alps of a grass, *Poa saxicola*, which had previously only been found on Mount Wellington. The discovery was reported in the proceedings of the Linnean Society of New South Wales.

Mr. L. Rodway said that he had been over nearly all the mountains in Tasmania, but he had only found *Poa saxicola* in one small area on Mount Wellington. The discovery was, therefore, a very interesting one, provided that the grass had been correctly identified.

Professor Flynn exhibited dissections of the reproductive organs of certain marsupials, and gave a short address on the manner in which the embryos were borne.

A fish's egg was also exhibited which Professor Flynn identified as that of *Callorhynchus antarcticus*, sometimes called the elephant fish.

Mr. Robert Hall exhibited a number of swallows and swifts to illustrate Mr. Dove's paper. Mr. Hall also exhibited a fish (*Optonurus denticulatus*, Rich.) closely resembling the “whiptail,” which had been dredged in 800 fathoms of water off the coast of New South Wales. It was now safe to record this deep water species as new to the list of the Tasmanian fauna.

OCTOBER 9th, 1911.

The general monthly meeting of the society was held at the Museum on Monday evening, October 9th, 1911.

Dr. Fritz Noetling occupied the chair.