

ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

THE sixty-ninth Anniversary Meeting of this Society was held yesterday at their offices 3 Hanover Square W. The chair was taken at 4 p. m., by Sir William H. Flower, K.C.B., F.R.S., President of the Society.

After the Auditors' report had been read, a vote of thanks accorded to them, and other preliminary business had been transacted, the report of the Council on the proceedings of the Society during the past year was read by Mr. P. L. Sclater, F.R.S., the Secretary. It stated that the number of Fellows on the 31st of December, 1897, was 3,158 showing an increase of 60 during the past year. The number of Fellows' names upon the Society's books was at that date larger than it had been at any period since the year 1885.

The occurrence of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in 1897, together with the very favorable weather experienced during the summer and autumn of that year, had drawn a large number of visitors to the Society's Gardens, and the total income of the Society had consequently reached the large amount of £28,713, being £1,631 more than in 1896, and greater than that of any year since the year 1884.

The ordinary expenditure of the Society for 1897 had amounted to £25,329, which was an increase of £1,541 over that of the year 1896. Besides this a sum of £2,375 had been paid, and charged to extraordinary expenditure, having been mainly devoted to new works and new buildings.

A further sum of £1,000 had been placed to the Society's Deposit Account (which now amounted to £3,000), and a balance of £1,074 had been carried forward to the benefit of the present year.

The usual scientific meetings had been held during the year 1897, and a large number of valuable communications had been received upon every branch of zoology.

These had been published in the annual volume of *Proceedings*, which contained 1,013 pages illustrated by 57 plates, Parts 3 and 4 of the 14th Volume of the Society's Quarto.

Transactions had also been published in 1897. The 33d Volume of the *Zoological Record* (containing a summary of the work done by zoologists all over the world in 1896), edited by David Sharp, F.R.S., had been likewise published, and issued to the subscribers in November last.

The Library, containing upwards of 20,000 volumes, had been maintained in good order throughout the year and had been much resorted to by working naturalists. A large number of accessions both by gift and purchase had been incorporated into it.

The principal new building opened in the Society's Gardens in 1897 had been the new ostrich and crane-house which had been commenced in autumn of 1896. The final balance due to the contractors for its erection (£1,188) had been paid to them in 1897 and charged to extraordinary expenditure.

During the past summer also a new glass-house for the reception of the Society's collection of tortoises had been built, adjoining the reptile house, at a total cost of £464, and likewise charged to extraordinary expenditure. This amount, however, had been lessened by the sum of £150 which the Hon. Walter Rothschild, F. Z. S., who is especially interested in these animals, had kindly contributed towards it. A third new building erected in the gardens during the past year, and recently opened to the public, was a new lavatory which had been built near the refreshment rooms specially for the accommodation of visitors resorting to that department of the gardens.

Since the last anniversary a serious loss had been caused to the Society's staff by the death, on the 7th of May last year, of Mr. A. D. Bartlett, for 38 years Superintendent of the Society's Gardens. In the report

made to the general meeting on the 19th of May last the Council had already recorded their deep sense of the services rendered to the Society by the late Mr. Bartlett during the long period for which he had held his post, and of their full appreciation of the skill, energy and faithfulness with which he had discharged the multifarious and difficult duties of his office. On the present occasion the Council could do no more than repeat the sentiments expressed at that meeting, which they were sure would be fully concurred in by all the Fellows of the Society. The vacancy thus caused had been filled by the appointment, as Superintendent, of Mr. Bartlett's second son, Mr. Clarence Bartlett, who had been in the Society's service for 36 years as his father's assistant.

The number of visitors to the Gardens in 1897 had been 717,755, being 52,751 more than the corresponding number in 1896.

The number of animals on the 31st of December last had been 2,585, of which 792 were mammals, 1,362 birds, 431 reptiles and batrachians.

Amongst the additions made during the past year, 17 were specially commented upon as being of remarkable interest and in most cases new to the Society's collection.

The report concluded with a long list of donations to the Menagerie received in 1897.

A vote of thanks to the Council for their report was then moved by Sir John Lubbock, Bt., F.R.S., seconded by Mr. R. Lydekker, F.R.S., and carried unanimously.

The meeting then proceeded to elect the new members of the Council and the officers for the ensuing year. The usual ballot having been taken, it was announced that Frank E. Beddard, Esq., F.R.S.; William T. Blanford, Esq., L.L.D., F.R.S.; Richard Lydekker, Esq., F.R.S.; Howard Saunders, Esq., and Charles S. Tomes, Esq., F.R.S., had been elected into the Council in the

place of the retiring members, and that Sir William H. Flower, K.C.B., F.R.S., had been re-elected President; Charles Drummond, Esq., Treasurer, and Philip Lutley Selater, Esq., M.A., Ph.D., F.R.S., as Secretary to the Society for the ensuing year.

CURRENT NOTES ON ANTHROPOLOGY.

PRIMITIVE MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS.

THE study of musical instruments begins with two sticks which are rubbed together, or hit one against the other, to make a noise. Such are found among the Australians and the Pueblo Indians. In Louisiana the jawbone of a mule is scratched rapidly with a stick to elicit folk-lore music. The study of this art in early conditions is the theme of an excellent article by Dr. Walaschek in the Proceedings of the Anthropological Society of Vienna for February. He inserts a number of illustrations from specimens in the Ethnographic Museum of Vienna.

In this connection, I would suggest that the human bones, with incisions crosswise, which are described by Drs. Lumholtz and Hrdlicka in Vol. 10 of The Bulletin of the American Museum of Natural History, and which they are at a loss to explain, were intended for just such primitive musical instruments. Several similar specimens were exhibited in the Mexican department of the Columbian Exposition at Madrid. (See my 'Report,' p. 27.)

PRE-COLUMBIAN LEPROSY IN AMERICA.

THE question of the existence of leprosy in America before Columbus occupied the Berlin Society of Anthropology at several of its meetings last year. The inquiry was started by the investigations of Dr. A. S. Ashmead, of New York City. He had noted on old Peruvian pottery deformations of the face and extremities, resembling those produced by that disease.

The discussion in Berlin was shared by