WELLINGTON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

FIRST MEETING. *26th June*, 1880.

Mr. Martin Chapman, President, in the chair.

New Members.—Messrs Rouband, Macdermott, Gerse, and Mrs. John Kebbell.

The President delivered an opening address:

ABSTRACT.

He reviewed the proceedings of the Society during the past year, the results of which appear in Vol. XII. of the Transactions, and on the whole considered that good work had been done. He particularly referred to many valuable papers under sections Ethnology, Zoology, and Botany, and the annual report of the New Zealand Institute, which is a yearly *resumé* of all scientific work done in the colony; also, to the valuable paper on the Meteorology of New Zealand in the appendix, which contains the results, in a condensed form, of all the observations taken throughout the colony during the year by the Meteorological Department under Dr. Hector. He also called attention to a number of additions to the library on the table, including reports and catalogues lately issued by the Geological Survey and Colonial Museum Departments.

PAPERS.

1. "Notice of a new fish, *Hypolycodes haastii*," by Dr. Hector. (*Transactions*, p. 194). (Specimen exhibited.)

2. "Notice of the Capture of a Large Stingaree," by Mr. Seymour George, M.H.R.

The following is a note of a large *Stingaree* (Trygon thalassia), which I harpooned to-day and captured, it being an unusually large one, the length from snout to tip of the tail being 9 feet 11 inches; length of tail, 6 feet; breadth, 4 feet 7 inches; depth, about 1 foot 6 inches. It must have weighed at least 2 cwt. The tail was covered with spines, also a row nearly the whole length of back, and part of two other rows of spines running parallel with the main row of spines on the back. I happened to haul it on the beach on its back, so that the whole of the under part of the fish was fully exposed. While thus lying a young ray was born, which measured from snout to tip of tail 3 feet 3 inches; length of tail, 2 feet 2 inches, with a spine 2 inches long; breadth, 1 foot 4 inches. Another young ray, evidently just born, followed its mother on shore, which I also captured; it was the same size as the one which I saw born. I opened the ray to see if there were any more young inside her, but found none, but seemed to have a number of what I supposed to be eggs; they were about the size of a pigeon's egg, and full of a thick yellow fluid.

Kawau, 5th March, 1880. (Specimens exhibited.)

3. "Notes on Mr. Frankland's Paper on 'The Simplest Continuous