

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1900.

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THE following Report treats of the work performed in the Australian Museum during 1900, and of the condition of the Collections therein.

### GENERAL CONDITION AND CARE OF COLLECTIONS.

It is with much satisfaction that I have to report that the whole of the Collections, both exhibited and in store, are in an excellent state of preservation. Nothing has been left undone by the Assistants-in-Charge of the various Sections to render the Collections as complete as the space available will permit. Wherever possible, old or inferior specimens were replaced by more perfect ones, many hitherto unrepresented forms were added, and particular attention was directed to replacing the old manuscript labels by printed ones, and wherever possible these were made of a descriptive nature. The almost entire absence of insect pests, and the cleanly state of the specimens and case interiors is due to the unremitting care of the Assistant-Taxidermist (Mr. R. Grant) and the Articulators (Messrs. H. Barnes, Junr., and A. R. Taylor). Experience has taught us that the perfect condition of Museum specimens, even in a warm climate, is not so much brought about by the lavish scattering of disinfectants, as by constant and careful examination and cleaning. To effect this, it is absolutely necessary to have at least one officer constantly employed in duties of this nature.

It is gratifying to state that, through the perfect sanitary condition in which the Museum premises are always kept, the Staff was quite unaffected by the epidemic of supposed bubonic plague, which raged in Australia during 1899-1900.

### ATTENDANCE OF PUBLIC.

The total attendance of visitors during 1900 amounted to 116,927, showing a decrease from the preceding year. The average attendance was 325 on week-days, and 600 on Sunday afternoons. The largest number passing through the turnstile in any one day, and indeed the largest on record, was 2291, on Monday, October 1st ("Eight-hour day"). The decrease in