

## REPORT FOR THE YEAR 1901.

By R. ETHERIDGE, Junr., Curator.

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[“THERE should be no halt in the work of the Institution.<sup>1</sup> . . . . The urgent needs of the National Museum are recommended to the favourable consideration of the Congress.”—ROOSEVELT, *Presidential Messages to the U.S. Senate and House of Representatives.*]

THE following Report treats of the work performed in the Australian Museum during 1901, and of the condition of the Collections therein.

It was decided last year to publish an account of the year's transactions as a Museum document pure and simple, rather than as a portion of the Statutory Report made by the Trustees under the Act of Incorporation (27 Vic., No. 2, 1853), to the State Governor. By issuing such a statement as a number of the Museum Records, it was felt that wider publicity would be given to the work of the year.

### GENERAL CONDITION AND CARE OF COLLECTIONS.

The general condition of the Museum, as an Institution, remains in a very satisfactory state in all but its finances. It is useless to disguise the fact that the latter, as lately derived from the State funds, are not sufficiently liberal to conduct its affairs in a scientific and practical manner if it is to progress, maintain the high position attained amongst Colonial Museums, and not to stagnate. By rigid economy, and very careful management, income and expenditure have been balanced, but often at the expense of lost opportunities.

The whole of the Collections, both exhibited and in store, have been carefully watched, and are in excellent preservation.

The new Fish Gallery was opened to the public on 21st August, and has since been largely frequented by visitors.

### ATTENDANCE OF PUBLIC.

The Museum continued open to visitors during the usual hours, viz., from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sundays, and from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. on all week-days except Mondays, which were reserved for cleaning purposes; but on Monday afternoons the collections were, as usual,

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<sup>1</sup> The Smithsonian Institution at Washington.