

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

GOVERNORS OF THE NEW ZEALAND
INSTITUTE.

PRESENTED TO BOTH HOUSES OF THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY, BY COMMAND
OF HIS EXCELLENCY.

WELLINGTON.

—
1870.

SECOND ANNUAL REPORT OF THE GOVERNORS OF THE NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE.

DURING the past year meetings of the Board of Governors have been held for the transaction of business on the following dates: 11th August, 28th September, 7th October, 1st November, 9th December, 1869; 28th March and 20th May, 1870.

In accordance with the Act, the following Governors retired from the Board: Sir David Munro, J. E. Fitzgerald, Esq., and Colonel Haultain. The two former were renominated, and Dr. Knight was nominated in the room of the latter.

On the 1st November, 1869, notice was received from the Secretary of the Westland Naturalists and Acclimatization Society, stating that they would not be able to continue as an affiliated Society, owing to the want of local support.

On the 18th October, 1869, the Otago Institute became incorporated in the terms of the Act.

The Institute now consists of the following Societies:—

	No. of Members.
Wellington Philosophical Society	85
Auckland Institute	106
Philosophical Institution of Canterbury	76
Otago Institute	80

The election of Governors by these Societies took place in the month of October, 1869, and the following gentlemen were returned as Members of the Board for the current year: His Honor Mr. T. B. Gillies, His Honor Mr. Justice Ward, and Dr. Haast, F.R.S.

The Manager's Report on the Museum and Laboratory hereto appended, shows that this branch of the Institute has made considerable progress during the past year; and the Government having undertaken the publication of the Catalogue of the Museum, in the course of a few weeks this work will be in the hands of the public, and will form a valuable guide for the formation and proper arrangement of local collections in other parts of the Colony.

The appended Statement of Accounts shows the manner in which the funds placed at the disposal of the Board have been applied for the present year.

Volume II. of the Transactions and Proceedings was issued in the month of April, 1870, and consists of 438 pages of print and 21 lithographed illustrations. The edition consists of 750 copies; 342 of which have been issued to the members of the affiliated Societies, 50 copies have been presented to the public libraries in New Zealand, and 50 presentation copies have been distributed in England and other countries.

In addition to the above, the Auckland, Canterbury, and Otago Societies have received 117 additional copies, to the value of £88 15s., which is one-third of the amount of the annual subscriptions of their members, as a contribution in aid of the funds of these Societies. The remainder of the edition is held in reserve for sale at 15s. per volume, being the same price as that fixed for Volume I.

At the request of Messrs. Trübner & Co., that firm has been appointed as Agents for London, and copies have been forwarded to them for sale.

The volume contains sixty-two original articles, contributed by thirty-two members, being a great increase over the number in the former volume, which contained thirty-two articles.

Nine lectures also appear in the volume, which were delivered by the following gentlemen:—Mr. Fitzgerald, Mr. Justice Richmond, Mr. Travers, Mr. Wakefield, and Dr. Hector.

The proceedings of the various Societies are also more fully reported than previously, and contain, in addition to the discussions which took place at the meetings, the addresses delivered by the different Presidents.

It has been found necessary to reserve several papers relating to purely medical subjects, as the Board considered it advisable to defer them, for publication in a separate form at some future time for the professional reader.

The Board has had under consideration a suggestion from Government, that the functions of the Institute should be extended so as to exercise a direct educational influence,—and in reply the Board has made the following recommendations:—

That a series of lectures should be instituted in connection with the Museum, to be delivered during the winter months of the year.

That the subjects should be divided into two courses, the lectures being given on alternate days, or otherwise as found most convenient.

The first course should comprise lectures on Natural History, or the principles of classification as illustrated by the elementary study of Zoology and Botany, and the application of these to Physical Geography and Geology.

The second course should be devoted to the elements of experimental Science,—Physics, Chemistry, and Mineralogy.

The practical course should be limited to Mineralogy and Chemistry.

For carrying into effect these proposals it will be necessary—

1st. That additional accommodation should be afforded.

2nd. That the requisite apparatus should be obtained from England.

3rd. That lecturers should be provided.

In the meantime, until the scheme is established, the Governors are of opinion that the working of it might be left to the Staff of the Geological Survey.

Dr. Hector has communicated to the Governors his willingness to lecture on the first branch, and is of opinion that the services of his assistants might be with great advantage arranged so that they might work in the field during the summer months, and in winter assist in the course of instruction; but the Governors, in view of the great additional labour which would be entailed on Dr. Hector by accepting his offer, would urge upon the Government the expediency of making such additions to his staff as will enable him to carry out that offer without interfering with the various duties more properly devolving upon him.

By this means, without materially increasing the present establishment, the scheme might be initiated, and the valuable educational resources of the Museum and Laboratory devoted to supply the deficiency of scientific and technical instruction which is much felt in this Colony. The fees would be sufficient to pay the working expenses; and by a judicious system of small endowments for scholarships in the various public schools, other parts of the Colony would share in the benefits of the course.

Colonial Museum,
Wellington, 21st July, 1870.

G. F. BOWEN,
President.

ACCOUNTS of the NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE, 1869-70.

RECEIPTS.				EXPENDITURE.			
Balance in hand	...	£	s. d.	1.—Expenses of Meetings, &c.	...	£	s. d.
Government Grant in Aid	...	33	2 8	2.—Expenses of Publication of Vol. II...	...	34	15 1
Contribution from Wellington Philosophical Society	...	500	0 0	Balance in hands of Treasurer	...	497	6 7
Proceeds of Sale of Vol. I.	...	20	0 0			32	3 0
		11	2 0				
		£564	4 8			£564	4 8

A. LUDLAM,
Treasurer.

COLONIAL MUSEUM AND LABORATORY.

In the year ending 31st July, 1870, 1,979 additional specimens have been added to the Museum, which therefore now contains upwards of 21,000 specimens, exclusive of articles deposited by the owners and which can be withdrawn.

During the year the contents of the Museum have been entirely rearranged and catalogued, and a large number of duplicate specimens withdrawn for distribution to Museums in other parts of the Colony when the Catalogue is completed. The Catalogue is being printed in duodecimo form, and will be in the hands of the public at the same time as this Report.

The Geological Map which was referred to in last year's Report is now almost completed, and will be issued at the same time. The chief additions made to the Museum by the Officers of the Geological Survey during the past year have been the rocks and fossils illustrative of the geology of Hawke's Bay, Taupo and the central Volcanoes, and the Thames District; from which latter locality a very complete series has been obtained, minutely illustrating the various mines.

An interesting collection of fossils from the reptilian beds of the Amuri District, together with their associated rocks, has also been made by Dr. Haast, F.R.S., who was temporarily employed for the purpose of making a Geological survey of that locality, together with the Waipara District.

The reptilian fossils mentioned in the last Report as having been obtained from the latter district have been described by Professor Owen in the Geological Magazine of February, 1870.

It is intended to have plaster casts made of these interesting fossil remains, which include bones of the Plesiosaurus, Ichthyosaurus, and other genera not yet determined, for distribution to the various Museums.

Mention has also to be made of a collection of fossil shells, accompanied by the bones of a fossil Penguin, contributed by Mr. Duigan, from Brighton; and also a large series of tertiary and upper secondary fossils collected by Mr. Enys from the upper basin of the Waimakariri.

The Museum is again indebted to Mr. T. H. Potts, for a valuable contribution of foreign insects, and also several additions to the collection of native birds, nests, and eggs.

From Mr. T. R. Hackett, a collection of the rocks illustrating the geology of the Gympie Creek Gold Fields has been received, which possesses peculiar interest from the similarity which they present to some of the rocks from the Thames District; while at the same time they contain fossils which indicate the age of the formation as probably *Triassic*.

A series of lithographed illustrations of the animals of Victoria, presented by Mr. W. Seed, also deserves special acknowledgment, as forming a very instructive addition to the Museum.

The number of names entered in the Visitors' Book during last year is over 9,000; but this is as usual far short of the actual number of persons who avail themselves of the Institution.

31st July, 1870.

JAMES HECTOR,
Manager.