

SESS. II.—1891.
NEW ZEALAND.

NEW ZEALAND INSTITUTE, 1890-91.

(TWENTY-THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.)

Presented to both Houses of the General Assembly by Command of His Excellency.

MEETINGS of the Board have been held on the following dates: 29th November, 1890; 10th April and 3rd August, 1891.

The following gentlemen were elected Governors of the Institute by the incorporated societies in conformity with the Act: Mr. J. McKerrow, Mr. S. Percy Smith, and Mr. A. S. Atkinson.

The members who retired from the Board in conformity with section 6 of the Act are the Hon. Mr. Mantell, Mr. W. T. L. Travers, and Mr. T. Mason, and all these gentlemen were reappointed by His Excellency the Governor.

During the year the following gentlemen have been elected honorary members of the Institute: Professor C. V. Riley, of Washington; Professor Otto Nordstedt, of Sweden; and Professor Liversidge, of Sydney.

The Board regret to have to record the loss by death of one distinguished honorary member—viz., Sir Frederick A. Weld, G.C.M.G., who was elected in 1877.

The members now on the roll of the Institute are: Honorary members, 28; ordinary members—Auckland Institute, 205; Hawkes Bay Philosophical Institute, 99; Wellington Philosophical Society, 151; Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, 98; Nelson Philosophical Society, 38; Westland Institute, 76; Otago Institute, 117; Southland Institute, 72: making a total of 884.

The volumes of Transactions now in stock are—Vol. I. (second edition), 266; Vol. V., 28; Vol. VI., 28; Vol. VII., 120; Vol. IX., 120; Vol. X., 153; Vol. XI., 43; Vol. XII., 48; Vol. XIII., 48; Vol. XIV., 70; Vol. XV., 183; Vol. XVI., 180; Vol. XVII., 200; Vol. XVIII., 163; Vol. XIX., 175; Vol. XX., 175; Vol. XXI., 100; Vol. XXII., 100; Vol. XXIII., not yet fully distributed.

The volume of Transactions just published (XXIII.) was issued in July, and contains sixty-four articles, also addresses and abstracts of articles which appear in the proceedings. The volume contains 680 pages of letterpress and 49 plates. The following is a comparison of the contents of the present with that of last year's volume:—

	1891.	1890.
	Pages.	Pages.
Miscellaneous	136	142
Zoology	236	244
Botany	72	56
Chemistry	...	4
Geology	144	62
Proceedings	48	52
Appendix	44	47
	680	607

The cost of printing Vol. XXII. of the Transactions was £284 6s. 9d. for 607 pages, and that for Vol. XXIII. £296 12s. 6d. for 680 pages.

The Honorary Treasurer's accounts for the year is appended, and shows a balance in hand of £51 10s. 1d.

The amount devoted to the printing of memoirs, in accordance with resolution of May, 1885, is £525; and the sum of £150 has been allotted for the printing of papers postponed from previous years.

A memorandum giving an account of the work done by the Institute since its organization is appended hereto.

Approved by the Board,
W. B. D. MANTELL,
Chairman.

JAMES HECTOR,
Manager.

3rd August, 1891.

The funds at the disposal of the Board of Governors of the Institute have consisted only of the annual parliamentary grant of £500, an annual contribution from the Wellington Philosophical Society as an equivalent for rent of the library-room and the use of the lecture-hall, and a small sum arising from the sale of volumes. Nearly the whole of the funds are spent in the printing of the volume of Transactions, only a very small amount being devoted to the maintenance of the Library in the way of binding books. Nor is the information contained in these volumes confined to the colony, as they are widely distributed to the chief libraries in all parts of the world.

Forty-seven of the most distinguished men in science and literature, who have rendered special service to New Zealand, have been elected honorary members, while there are seventy-five corresponding societies and institutions that exchange their publications with the Institute. About three hundred volumes per annum are acquired in this manner, the greater number of which have been placed in the General Assembly Library.

The Museum in Wellington, though nominally under the charge of the Governors of the Institute, does not constitute a charge on their funds, but is wholly supported out of the votes of the Geological Survey Department. The labour of editing the annual volumes and the preparation of the illustrations is undertaken by the staff of the Geological Survey in addition to their other duties, and without any further remuneration; and it is chiefly owing to this circumstance that a work, which actually produces in the form of subscriptions and contributions by way of exchange of books the value of over £1,700 per annum, is produced from the grant of £500 a year.

Besides the fostering of local societies the Act contemplated the establishment of technical schools throughout the colony; and at the request of the Government a scheme was submitted by the Board on the 20th July, 1870, to provide a normal technical school and to give practical instruction in applied science at the Museum, but no funds were provided for giving effect to this scheme. The functions of the Board under the Act for promoting local institutions for instruction in science have therefore remained in abeyance, and have to some extent been superseded by subsequent legislation and endowments for mechanics' institutes, public libraries, and technical schools for art, mining, agriculture, and other branches of applied science under the control of the colleges and the Education Boards.

Approximate Cost of Paper.—Preparation (not given); printing (1,300 copies), £2.

By Authority: GEORGE DIDSBURY, Government Printer, Wellington.—1891.

Price, 6d.]

