

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR YEAR ENDING 30TH JUNE, 1872: *President*—His Honour Mr. Justice Chapman; *Vice-Presidents*—R. Gillies, T. Hocken, M.R.C.S.E.; *Council*—W. N. Blair, E. B. Cargill, S. Hawthorne, M.A., J. McKerrow, G. S. Sale, M.A., J. T. Thomson, F.R.G.S., P. Thomson; *Honorary Secretary*—D. Brent; *Honorary Treasurer*—J. S. Webb.

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FOURTH MEETING. 16th September, 1871.

T. M. Hocken, M.R.C.S.E., Vice-President, in the chair.

This was the first meeting of the Society held in the Otago Museum. The objects necessary to illustrate the papers to be read had been gathered into the Botanical Room, which being large, and containing no table cases, is well adapted for the purpose of meetings.

*New members.*—Mrs. Burn, Professor Shand, D. Ross, Mr. Jennings.

1. "On Recent Moa Remains in New Zealand," by James Hector, M.D., F.R.S. (See *Transactions*, p. 110.)

Mr. J. S. Webb explained that this paper had been held back with the view of getting additional information from a late discovery of Moa remains in Otago, which, however, had not yet been obtained; also, that some of the matter contained in it had already been forwarded to a scientific periodical, but that none of it had been read before any scientific society.

2. "Notes on Moa Remains," by W. D. Murison. (See *Transactions*, p. 120.)

Mr. Gillies mentioned, as a proof that the Moa had survived in this island till a comparatively recent period, that old whalers, here in the early days of the settlement, used to say that they had seen dogs gnawing the bones of the Moa. The absence of traditions among the Maoris here on this subject could be accounted for by the fact that those who lived here were slaves, were not descended from the old inhabitants, and knew little or nothing of the country.

Mr. Alexander Bathgate said that he was at Clyde soon after the Moa neck, referred to by Dr. Hector, had been found. Dr. Thomson had shown it to him, and also a pelvis and sternum, found in the same place as the neck. From what he could judge as to the size of the bird of which these bones had formed part, and from the information given by the miner who found the pelvis as to the height, from the floor of the cave, of the lower surface of the rock under which he had found it, and under which the other bones had also been found, he concluded that such a bird could not have got under the rock easily. It must have either crawled in, or perhaps the rock might have afterwards fallen upon it. The miner who found the Moa neck chanced to do so