positive fluidity of the life-principle in nature," the discussion may lead to the affirmation of some definite principle. It may be assumed that the life-principle is a fluid far more subtle than ether, electricity, or any other of the unknown or unsolved forces of nature: That this fluid is the same in quality, whether used by man, animal, fish, bird, tree, plant, or insect, but differs in quantity; that it occupies a similar place in the economy of the planet, as the subtle ether (without which it is evident light could not travel) or magnetism, which affects the compass, no matter in what spot the magnetized needle may be placed; that this fluid differs from the other great forces of nature, although the life fluid, the subtle ether, and the force we call magnetism, may be variations of one great and as yet unsolved natural force. That the life fluid has some affinity with magnetism is evident, seeing that local magnets attract each other through the general law of magnetism, just as life acts upon life through the general principle of vital force. The author then supports his views by illustrating the identity of the agency, "or life fluid," in all manifestations of instinct and reason, and in all structural divergences both in animals and plants.

2. "On a Branching Fern-Tree," by J. Buchanan, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 217.)

3. "New Plants," by J. Buchanan, F.L.S. (*Transactions*, p. 213.)

4. "On *Ixodes maskelli*, a Parasite of the Albatross," by T. W. Kirk. (*Transactions*, p. 65.)

5. "On a Curious Double Worm," by T. W. Kirk. (*Transactions*, p. 64.)

6. "Additional Notes on New Zealand *Coccidæ*," by W. M. Maskell. (*Transactions*, p. 45.)

Exhibits.—Additions to the Museum were exhibited:—(1.) Large shark's tooth. (2.) Fossils from Tata Island. (3.) Insects from Rio. Presented by Hon. Mr. Waterhouse.

Annual Meeting: 18*th February*, 1887.

Dr. Hector, President, in the chair.

Abstract of Report.

There were seven meetings held, and twenty-eight papers read, during the year.

One hundred and twenty new volumes had been purchased for the library, and 146 volumes bound.

The receipts for the year 1886-87 amounted to £275 9s. 4d., the expenditure £208 1s. 4d., leaving a balance in hand of £67 8s.

A report from the Microscopic Section of the Society was also read.

Election of Office-bearers for 1887.—*President*—Dr. Hutchinson; *Vice-presidents*—Mr. Travers and Hon. G. R. Johnson; *Council*—Messrs. Maskell, Brandon, Hulke, Govett, Pennefather, and Drs. Newman and Hector; *Secretary and Treasurer*—R. B. Gore; *Auditor*—W. E. Vaux.

New Member.—Mr. Clement Lee.

Papers.—The following papers were then read:—

1. "On the Occurrence of Bismuth at the Owen Reefs, New Zealand," by W. Skey. (*Transactions*, p. 459.)

Dr. Hector explained that he had collected this ore, and that this was the only metal required to make the list of metallic elements found in New Zealand complete. This discovery was interesting, as indicating the possibility of finding much more valuable minerals. He also gave an account of the locality where he had found the bismuth.

2. "On the Australian Moth (*Junonia vellida*) found in the Wellington District," by G. V. Hudson. (*Transactions*, p. 201.)

3. "On a New Method of Utilizing Silk Cocoons, suitable for New Zealand produce," by F. W. Pennefather, LL.M.

This was a method by which the cocoons could be used without winding off the silk, or a plan of using the material as floss-silk.

Exhibits.—Scoria from Galatea Fort, 15 miles from Tarawera; specimens from Te Aroha, containing large quantities of silver and only traces of gold; specimens from the Richmond Hill Silver-mine; coal from a new seam at Mokihinui (30ft. seam).

4. The following papers were taken as read:—

"On a New Species of *Alpheus*," by T. W. Kirk. (*Transactions*, p. 194.)

"On Trimorphism in Flowers of New Zealand Fuchsia," by T. Kirk, F.L.S.

"On New Species of *Podocarpus*," by T. Kirk, F.L.S.