

the legitimate duties of a Society which professedly aims at the increase of human knowledge. And it is clear that in this, as in many other matters, it is only the making a beginning which is difficult. Once get classes fairly established for the teaching of both the practical and theoretical branches in the art of mining, and other classes, in which the theory and practice of other arts can be acquired, will soon be demanded and supplied. It is already proposed that the South Kensington Department of Science and Art should largely extend its sphere of operations and establish branches in the various British colonies. The Mining School will form the node or nucleus for such a branch in Nelson. A School of Design is the next desideratum, and it ought not to be long before that is established. Other departments should spring up by natural development, and will undoubtedly do so if the inhabitants of the district vouchsafe to the movement that popular support to which it is entitled.

He next referred to the importance of popular lectures and conversations, in which amusement could be efficiently blended with instruction, as further methods of increasing the Society's influence. The remainder of his address was devoted to arguing the claims of the prosecution of Science and Literature by those engaged in active business, as a means of developing a condition of sound mental health.

---

COUNCIL MEETING, *5th December, 1887.*

Dr. Boor, President, in the chair.

The Bishop of Nelson was nominated to vote at the election of a Governor of the New Zealand Institute.

*Donation.*—"The Zoology of Victoria," by F. McCoy, F.R.S., by the Public Library, Museum, etc., of Melbourne.

---

*5th December, 1887.*

Dr. Boor, President, in the chair.

*Donations.*—Twenty-four geological specimens, by Mr. H. P. Washbourne. "Official Report of the Observations made on the Transit of Venus, 1882," by J. McKerrow, Surveyor-General of the Colony; by the author, through Mr. A. S. Atkinson.

*Paper.*—"A few Experiences of Fijian Life," by W. E. Atkinson.

---

COUNCIL MEETING: *26th December, 1887.*

Dr. Boor, President, in the chair.

*Donation.*—"The Mining Industries of New Zealand for 1887," from the Mines Department (Govt. of N.Z.).