WELLINGTON PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY.

FIRST MEETING. 13*th June*, 1883.

The Hon. G. Randall Johnson, President, in the chair.

New Members.—F. Stevens and Dr. Grabham.

1. Address by President.

ABSTRACT.

He said the Society had been constituted fifteen years, and its efforts had been successful in harmonizing views and in stimulating concerted action upon a wide range of scientific and philosophical subjects. He then reviewed the work of the Society during the past year. Speaking of University matters, he suggested the importance of having a College established in Wellington similar to those in the other chief cities of the colony. Referring, at the close of his address, to the recent ascent of Mount Cook by Mr. Green, and to conflicting theories as to glacier action on the high lands in these islands as we see them now, he inclined to the theory that the accumulations of snow on plateaux above the line of perpetual snow would send down glaciers to scour deep fiords and narrow valleys till the area of the plateaux became reduced by this very process of vertical denudation; this theory being more in accord with our existing geological knowledge than the more extreme supposition of a glacial epoch similar to that which was conjectured to have once covered Europe. From all that was known of New Zealand geology, he concluded that from long prior to the glacial epoch down to the present time, the same physical forces had been at work, in the same manner and with the same intensity. The frost had continued without intermission to break down the cliffs; the glaciers all along scoured the valleys, polished the rocks, and carried the *débris* to valleys and plains below; the water most efficiently distributing what was so brought down; the only difference of circumstance being attributable to the alteration effected by those very forces in the mass on which they had been so long at work, and the consequent diminution of the power of the glaciers.

2. Dr. Hutchinson exhibited recent photographic views of the large active volcano which forms a prominent landmark in the Sandwich Islands, and gave some interesting information explanatory of the photographs.

Dr. Hector said the evidence afforded by these photographs of the extremely fluid nature of the lava-flow from these volcanoes was most remarkable.

3. "On the Igneous Rocks of the East Coast of Wellington," by A. McKay. (*See* Geol. Reports, 1883).

ABSTRACT.

The author described the geological features of a series of low hills and gullies about fourteen miles from Masterton, on Mr. Beetham's run; and showed a model indicating a well-defined crater, which he had no doubt was the low neck of an extinct volcano, which was in activity during the cretaceous period. He inferred from the adjacent strata, that the volcano was not ancient in a geological sense, though he offered no comparative data as to the period of its probable activity.