

ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

During the year seven ordinary meetings have been held. At these meetings twenty-three papers have been read, which may be classified as follows: Botany, 9; zoology, 7; physics, 4; chemistry, 2; miscellaneous, 1. At four of these ordinary meetings addresses have also been delivered—viz.: "On the Science of History," by Professor Mathew; "On Some New Zealand Seaweeds," by Mr. R. M. Laing; "On Maori Stone Implements," by Captain Hutton; and "On the Evolution of Art," by Mr. S. Hurst Seager. The attendance at the ordinary meetings has averaged 27.5. Both in the number of papers read and in the average attendance there has been a slight increase on the previous year.

In addition to the ordinary meetings the following have been held during the year: On the 7th April the annual general meeting, when Professor Dendy delivered his Presidential address on "Some Recent Progress in Biology." On the 22nd September (in the Art Gallery) a special popular lecture on "The Daffodil," by Mr. L. Cockayne, illustrated by photographs, diagrams, and lantern-slides, and a magnificent collection of Narcissi, which was very highly appreciated by the general public, who were admitted by ticket. On the 20th October (in the chemistry lecture theatre of the Canterbury College) an illustrated address on the "Displacement of Engraving by Photography" was delivered at a special meeting by Mr. J. von Gottfried. A special general meeting was held on the 3rd November, when it was resolved to alter law xvi., so as to allow the Council or President to call additional ordinary meetings during the summer months.

The Council on the 30th November passed the following resolution: "The Council of the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury wishes to express its deep sense of the great loss sustained by the scientific world through the untimely death of Dr. T. J. Parker, F.R.S., late Professor of Biology in the Otago University, and Curator of the University Museum."

The Council nominated your President, Dr. Thomas, to vote in the election of Governors of the New Zealand Institute for the ensuing year.

The number of members at the close of the year was seventy-seven, the apparent decrease of one since last year being due to the fact that the law with regard to arrears of subscriptions has been rigidly adhered to in making up the list, and thus a number of names have been removed which were merely dummies. As a matter of fact, thirteen new members were elected during the year.

The balance-sheet shows that the total receipts for the year have been £83 3s. 5d., and the expenditure £81 5s. 10d., leaving the Institute with a balance of £21 17s. 3d., including £16 19s. 8d. carried forward from last year. The receipts have thus been more than double what they were in the preceding year, an improvement which must be attributed to the fact that your Treasurer has taken the question of finance into his own hands, and dispensed with the services of a collector.

During the year an arrangement has been entered into with the Board of Governors of the Canterbury College whereby the old rooms in the Public Library have been abandoned. The ordinary meetings and Council meetings have been held in the Biological School of the Canterbury College, and the library of the Institute has been removed to the Canterbury Museum, where it still remains the property of the Institute, and is available for use by members as before.

The additions to the library by presentation and purchase have taken place as usual, and the sum of £20 has been expended upon binding. The honorary librarian, Dr. Evans, has thoroughly rearranged the

library in its new quarters, and completed a manuscript catalogue, so that the use of the library by members has been greatly facilitated.

During the past year the photographic section has held six meetings.

At its last meeting the Council of the Institute appointed a sub-committee to consider the programme for the ensuing year, and this sub-committee recommends to the incoming Council a continuation of the methods adopted during the past two years, with a view to making the meetings of the Institute of more general interest. Captain Hutton has kindly consented to deliver a special popular lecture on "The New Darwinism," while Professor Bickerton, Mr. R. Speight, Mr. J. B. Mayne, and Mr. L. Cockayne have accepted invitations to deliver short addresses on subjects of general interest at the ordinary meetings.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1898.—*President*—Dr. W. P. Evans; *Vice-presidents*—Mr. R. Speight and Mr. L. Cockayne; *Hon. Secretary*—Professor Dendy; *Hon. Treasurer*—Captain Hutton; *Council*—Dr. Thomas, Messrs. H. R. Webb, R. M. Laing, T. W. Naylor Beckett, J. B. Mayne, and Dr. Symes.

Presidential Address.—The retiring President, Dr. Thomas, delivered an address on "Hypnotism."
