

OTAGO INSTITUTE.

FIRST MEETING: 12th May, 1891.

A conversazione was held in the Museum buildings, when a number of interesting biological preparations, made in the Biological Laboratory, were exhibited under microscopes. Several cases of Indian butterflies, from the collection presented by Major-General Fulton, were also exhibited.

SECOND MEETING: 9th June, 1891.

Professor F. B. de M. Gibbons, President, in the chair.

Papers.—1. "Note on the Occurrence of Cancer in Fish," by Professor Scott. (*Transactions*, p. 201.)

It was stated in the discussion which followed the reading of Dr. Scott's paper that the Acclimatisation Society proposed to obtain the opinion of the officials of the United States Fisheries Commission on the subject of the cancerous growth. Specimens in illustration of the paper were exhibited.

2. "On certain Volcanic Appearances in Dowling Street, Dunedin," by L. O. Beal.

Mr. Beal exhibited samples of the rock and earth from the Dowling Street cutting.

3. "On the Structure of the Mammalian Ovum," by Professor T. J. Parker, F.R.S.

The author states that sections of the ovary of a kitten recently prepared for class purposes in the Biological Laboratory exhibit the unusual character of a number (six or eight) of nuclear bodies in the vitellus. Each is globular, about 0.01mm. in diameter, and consists of a cortical and a medullary substance, taking on slightly different tints with borax-carmin. They are apparently germinal spots, which have passed from the germinal vesicle into the vitellum—a phenomenon which has been described by His in fishes, and by others in Myriapods and Ascidiāns. The germinal vesicle contains, as usual, a single germinal spot.

Professor Parker exhibited a series of spirit specimens illustrating the growth of a curious fungus—*Ileodictyon*—and also some curious cup-shaped sponges from Tasmania presented to the Museum by A. Hamilton.