

## OTAGO INSTITUTE.

FIRST MEETING: 8th May, 1900.

Mr. E. Melland, President, in the chair.

The President announced that Dr. Colquhoun had been elected as a member of the Council, in the place of Mr. F. B. Stephens, who had left New Zealand.

*New Members.*—W. Powell and A. Durrand.

Mr. A. Wilson gave an account of some recent excavations at Olympia, illustrated by maps, plans, and photographs of temples and statuary.

SECOND MEETING: 12th June, 1900.

Mr. F. R. Chapman in the chair.

*New Members.*—J. Logan, S. F. Woodhouse, W. Fels, C. O. Lillie.

Dr. Hocken laid on the table a monograph of the New Zealand *Hepaticæ*, written by Dr. Berggren, of Lund University, and gave a short account of Dr. Berggren's scientific research in New Zealand twenty-five years ago.

Professor Benham exhibited several specimens of cartilaginous fishes recently added to the Museum, referring to the excellent method of their preparation in glycerine, which had been perfected by the late Dr. Parker. He also gave an account of the curious lung-fish, or *Ceratodus*, of North Queensland, which had been presented by Mr. Sargeant, a former student of our mining school.

Dr. Benham then made a few remarks on the natural history of some of the lower forms of animal life in New Zealand, the result of observations made during a recent holiday at Moeraki and Warrington.

He referred to a small pink worm, 2 in. long, burrowing and creeping along the sand, and emitting a very strong smell of rotten eggs, which probably protected it from its enemies. Another example mentioned was *Pectinaria*, an annelid which dwelt in a conical tube, formed from mucous secretion, with which particles of sand became incorporated. He found crabs of three species which burrowed in the mud.