

The New Zealand Institute was federal. The old New Zealand Society (renamed the Wellington Philosophical Society at the suggestion of a bishop) and the Auckland Institute, founded in 1867, became the first of the "incorporated societies" and were joined by the Philosophical Institute of Canterbury and other Institutes and Societies in Westland, Otago, and later elsewhere.

THE MEMBER BODIES

In Fig. 2 we see in diagrammed form the growth of our Society. For most of the century the federated bodies were regional, supporting art, science and literature. Some persisted. Some declined and died. They changed their names. Some amalgamated and dissociated. Their meetings always served as the forum for local scientific discussion. Most of them supported a museum or library. Anticipating, we may note changes of constitution in 1903 on Hector's retirement, in 1933 when the New Zealand Institute became the Royal Society of New Zealand, and in 1965 when the Society threw open its constitutional doors to the many specialist institutes and societies that have since added their support as member bodies.

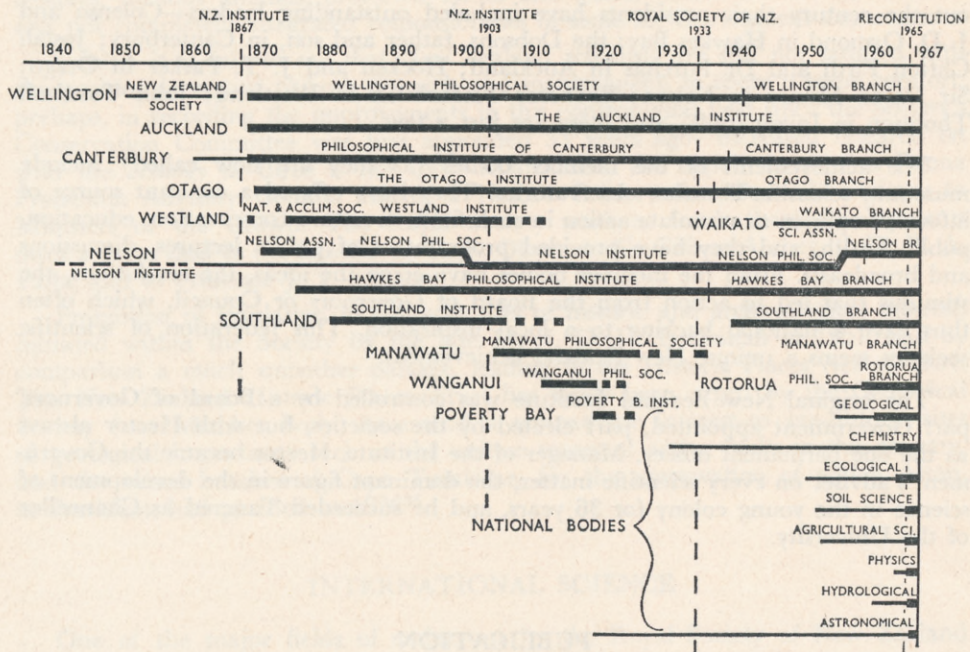


FIG. 2.—The history of the New Zealand Institute and Royal Society of New Zealand as a federation of member bodies. The existence of a member body prior to affiliation is shown by a narrow line and breaks represent discontinuous or dwindling activity. Changes in name of the regional bodies are indicated approximately and names of national bodies (lower part of diagram) are abbreviated.

At first the total membership was 178, mainly laymen interested in history, literature, art or philology as well as science. The membership rose to 1,300 in 1883, then dwindled with the economic and political climate of the 90's to 630, but it rose again when prosperity returned some time after the agricultural development