in the early 1900's following introduction of refrigerated ships. Today the membership is almost 5,000, half professional scientists, and the main object is promotion of science, broadly defined. "Art and literature" were dropped from the 1933 Act, in tacit admission that some of the rents in the seamless garment of learning could not be repaired.

The early dominance of the "natural history" sciences in the Institute's activities can be understood. The land, its plants and animals were unknown to the European colonist and important to his welfare as a settler, and his study of these subjects already had a background of Maori nature lore. Yet the pioneers also discussed physics, chemistry, mathematics and technology, and maybe the dominance of biology and geology in the Institute's discussions has been exaggerated by later critics.

The incorporated societies were autonomous, and have remained so, provided they satisfied certain conditions of size, permanence, financial stability and (until recently) supported local institutions with a fixed proportion of their subscriptions, a principle advocated by Joseph Dalton Hooker in 1863[5]. The Society has followed T. F. Cheeseman's advice, "Let the affiliated societies alone . . . avoid even the appearance of interfering with their local freedom". Thus each has its own distinctive history of contribution to the local scene, and each has its character. Throughout the century their presidents have included outstanding leaders—Colenso and J. D. Ormond in Hawkes Bay; the Dobsons, father and son, in Canterbury; Josiah Clifton Firth and Dr Purchas in Auckland; Hocken and J. T. Parker in Otago; Sir David Munro in Nelson; Ebenezer Teichelman in Westland; John Turnbull Thomson in Invercargill—and these are just a few.

The achievements of the member bodies (as they are now called) include museums, scientific libraries, observatories. They have offered a constant source of informed opinion to stimulate action in such fields as nature conservation, education, public health, and they have provided programmes of public lectures, discussions and broadcasts. From the member bodies have come the ideas, the resolutions, the stimulus that led to action from the Board of Governors or Council, which often thus gave a national backing to a local inspiration. This federation of scientific societies seems a unique New Zealand achievement.

The original New Zealand Institute was controlled by a Board of Governors, part Government appointed, part elected by the societies, but with Hector always as the one permanent officer, Manager of the Institute. Hector became the Government's adviser on every scientific matter, the dominant figure in the development of science in the young colony for 36 years, and he succeeded Tancred as Chancellor of the University.

PUBLICATION

In the Hector period the Board of Governors did rather little, but what it did was critical. With a Government grant of £500 a year it produced the annual volume of *Transactions* and *Proceedings* containing papers presented before the incorporated societies—a treasurehouse of facts and opinions of our pioneer philosophers and naturalists. The *Transactions* persisted, with changes of style, and inevitably became specialised; bulletins and special publications were added from time to time. Publication raised the reputation of the Institute throughout the world. But in bad times it was a hard road, sometimes absorbing more than the annual grant, and we recall that Professor W. N. Benson offered his Hector Prize money, awarded for his research, back to the Society to assist publication in 1935.