

The *Transactions* were distributed throughout the world by exchange with other scientific bodies. So Rutherford's first paper appeared in 1896, and from his discoveries Marconi developed a magnetic detector of wireless waves, patented in 1902. This was only the most spectacular of hundreds of scientific careers launched by publication in the *Transactions*, and the dividends are immeasurable. We acknowledge the Society's debt to the Honorary Editors who followed Hector in the task of keeping up the flow (and the quality) of the Society's publications.

#### LIBRARY AND ACCOMMODATION

With the *Transactions* a magnificent library has been built by exchange. It contains many early runs of periodicals that are unique in New Zealand, serving all branches of scholarship, and it is now the Society's most treasured asset, merely awaiting a home to serve New Zealand science to the full.

In Hector's time, of course, it had a home, the old wooden Colonial Museum, where Broadcasting House now stands<sup>6</sup>, Hector's house behind, Mantell's further to the north, and Government House to the east. The Museum was vested in the Institute by the 1867 Act. Old Wellingtonians may remember the old Museum Street and find it easier than I do to reconcile with its present appearance. The periodic New Zealand Institute conversaciones were more difficult to hold as the Museum became chock full—till Walter Mantell protested that tea and coffee could not be supplied without requisitioning his own kitchen. The Institute's publication stocks were the first to overflow, accumulating first in the old Parliamentary Buildings, escaping the 1905 fire, and ending in a basement of the new House of Representatives, where we sorted them out in 1963 to serve the continuing demand for back numbers of our publications<sup>7</sup>.

#### CITIZEN AND SCIENTIST

One thing stands out about the Hector Period—the active participation of prominent citizens from all walks of life in the Institute's affairs, so that it could also be called the "age of the amateur", Hector himself, of course, being a kind of amateur, with academic training in medicine. Lawyer Travers, the Irishman, passionately interested in natural history, served on the Board till he died at the age of 84. Sir David Monro, medico, Speaker of the House; Judge Gillies and Judge Chapman; William Rolleston, of Canterbury, and G. M. Waterhouse—the only man to have been premier of two colonies. The Bishop of Nelson—and Robert Stout, freethinker. James McKerrow, explorer and surveyor; Robert Pharazyn, sheepfarmer and politician; J. E. Fitzgerald, journalist, also politician. It paid to hold meetings when Parliament was in session to save travelling expenses. The early Boards of Governors remind us of the churchmen, statesmen and literary men like John Dryden and Samuel Pepys who were numbered among the first supporters of the Royal Society of London two centuries before.

But as the century grew old and the Universities joined the Museums as temples of scholarship, a growing stream of scientists (not by any means professional scientists as we would now define the term) served with them—von Haast and Hutton, Thomas Kirk and Walter Buller; W. M. Maskell (University registrar and entomologist), S. Percy Smith (surveyor and ethnologist), and Edward Tregear (civil servant and linguist).

As the century ended we sense hints of dissatisfaction with Hector's dominance in Wellington. Von Haast had fallen out with him long ago over the Moa bone Point excavations at Sumner. So did Hutton on more professional grounds. Delays in publication and in correspondence, and occasional evidence of editorial dictatorship led G. M. Thomson to start an opposition *N.Z. Journal of Science*. Otago