

from which most of the improvements in the state attitude to science have had their origin. The Australasian Institute for the Advancement of Science meets too seldom in New Zealand to be effective in this direction.

“A thorough-going reform of its constitution is necessary if the New Zealand Institute is to take its proper place in this crisis in the relations between science and national life. The following recommendations are made:

“The Institute should be formed, not of a Board of Governors, and a number of incorporated societies, but of a body of fellows chosen from the most competent scientific men of the Dominion. These fellows should elect an executive committee, which may or may not retain the name of ‘Board of Governors’. They should frame their own rules of entrance, fix their annual subscription and decide for themselves whether or not their numbers be restricted by definite rules. The Institute should, if possible, retain the local societies as affiliated institutions, and admit their members as members of the Institute (but not *ipso facto* as fellows), with the proviso that the *Transactions* of the Institute should only be given to fellows and not to members. The privileges of affiliation would be the opportunity for publication in the *Transactions* of papers read before the affiliated societies, and the existing rights in the library of the New Zealand Institute. The Institute should be required to hold not less than six public meetings during the year, and in order to permit of a proper representation from all parts of the Dominion, an increased grant should be given. For immediate requirements, a Government grant of £1,000 would be sufficient. Nearly £750 of this amount would go in the publication of researches, and the remaining £250 would provide the expenses of the popular meetings, and perhaps leave a little over for the institution of a system of grants. In order to bring such a reform about, in the Amendment of the Act it would be necessary to name some categories of persons to form the nucleus of the fellows. The surviving original members of the Institute, all past and present officers, and present members of the Board of Governors may be suggested as a basis.

“If such a scheme of reform were carried out, the Institute would be able to obtain many more exchanges for the *Transactions* and yet reduce the total number printed, and so improve the financial position. The provision of an increased grant for publication would permit the issue of the *Transactions* in half-yearly parts, and this would greatly hasten the publication of research and at the same time quicken the rate of solution of controversial problems. If the numbers of fellows were restricted fellowship would become an honourable distinction, and the standing and influence of the Institute would be greatly strengthened. The statutory obligation to hold not less than six public meetings in the year, and the provision of extra funds to meet the cost of these meetings would probably lead to the holding of a week of meetings annually in one of the principal towns of the Dominion, where a programme similar to that of the British Association would be carried out, and the public attention would be strongly drawn to the progress of science. In addition other meetings would no doubt be held when opportunity offered. For instance, on the occasion of the meetings of the Senate of the University of New Zealand, or any similar occasion when prominent fellows were brought together. Fellows would be able to voice their views at business meetings of the Institute which would be to them much more than a name.

“The local societies would lose only the inducement they are able to hold out to members in the shape of the annual volume of the *Transactions*, but they would gain by a greater freedom of internal government, and the formation of local societies in the smaller towns would be stimulated. If the local societies substituted for the *Transactions* a copy of a popular science Journal, they would probably easily retain their hold of their members and at the same time largely increase their numbers by the more general interest thus created.