

"Some such scheme of reform as that here advocated is essential if the scientific societies of the Dominion are to take a worthy part in the renaissance of social, economic and intellectual thought that has been brought about by the war."

#### COMMENT

Thomson's proposals led to the establishment of a Fellowship in 1919, though not immediately in the way he suggested; not until 1965 was the executive appointed by the Fellows. His view of the Institute as aiming to serve two functions—the "academy" function and the "advancement of science" function—has been endorsed in recent years. The original version apparently proposed that members of affiliated institutions be henceforth known as "associates" and it seems possible Thomson modified this so as to retain them as members after realising the strong opposition of the incorporated societies to his original proposal. The *Transactions* have never been denied to members, but their issue became subject to a financial contribution (levy). The proposal for public meetings was not pursued, apart from the triennial New Zealand Science Congresses, which began in 1919 and have fulfilled an "advancement of science" function. The *Transactions* were first published in parts, not half-yearly but quarterly, in 1927.

#### ACKNOWLEDGMENT

I am grateful to the Director and to the Librarian, Auckland Institute, for access to the document that is the subject of this paper.

#### LITERATURE CITED

- BENHAM, W. B., 1918. Presidential Address. *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 50: 340.  
——— 1935. George Malcolm Thomson (Obituary by Wm. B. B.). *Trans. R. Soc. N.Z.* 64: 413.  
FLEMING, C. A., 1964. Presidential Address: Promotion of Science in a Commonwealth Democracy. *Proc. R. Soc. N.Z.* 91: 89-100.  
SPEIGHT, R., 1929. James Allan Thomson (Obituary by R. S.). *Trans. N.Z. Inst.* 59: 935.