

The nomination for the election of Honorary Members of the New Zealand Institute was made in accordance with Statute IV.

1. "On Observed Irregularities in the Action of the Compass in Iron Steam Vessels," by A. H. Ross. (*Transactions*, p. 10.)

The Chairman then introduced Captain Hutton to the society, and, in doing so, dwelt upon the large field that Otago presented for scientific enquiry. For instance, the circumstances under which gold had been deposited at the Blue Spur had to him always been a perfect enigma. Captain Hutton would be able to investigate, and perhaps solve, this and similar enigmas, and his labours would bring the Province under the notice of *savans* in Europe, which could not but prove beneficial to it.

2. "List of the Insects recorded as having been found in New Zealand previous to the Year 1870," by Captain F. W. Hutton, C.M.Z.S. (*Transactions*, p. 158.)

The author said the list now offered was nearly complete. The difficulty in this matter was that the species were so numerous that no person would undertake the task of naming them all. The Beetles alone, for example, were more numerous than all the plants of New Zealand. The only way that he could see by which the task could be performed was for the General Government to place a sum, say £300, on the Estimates (as they did with the flora) to pay some young entomologist at home to collect into one volume, and translate the descriptions already printed, which numbered about 1,000. A beginning of the work of naming the species could then be made. As a preparatory step he had prepared the list in his hands. He had stopped at the year 1870 because there was no later copy of the "Zoological Record" in the colony, and he therefore could not feel sure as to what had been done. He concluded by again urging the Institute to bring its influence to bear on the General Government to vote the money required to pay some one to bring out a catalogue of all the genera and species of New Zealand insects already known.

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ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING. 17th February, 1874.

J. T. Thomson, F.R.G.S., Vice-President, in the chair.

*New members.*—Captain F. W. Hutton, F.G.S., C.M.Z.S., — Johnston, D. Petrie, A. T. Thomson, G. Shrimpton.

The Annual Report and Balance Sheet were read and adopted.

The Secretary reported the arrival of additional Apparatus for the Spectroscope.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1874.—*President*—J. T. Thomson, F.R.G.S.;

*Vice-Presidents*—J. McKerrow, D. Brent ; *Council*—Professor Black, W. Blair, C.E., A. Bathgate, R. Gillies, Professor Shand, H. Skey, P. Thomson ; *Hon. Treasurer*—J. S. Webb ; *Hon. Secretary*—Captain F. W. Hutton.

1. "On the Mythology and Traditions of the Maori in New Zealand," by the Rev. F. H. Wohlers.

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FIRST MEETING. 7th April, 1874.

J. T. Thomson, F.R.G.S., President, in the chair.

*New members.*—Dr. Bakewell, —. Mouat.

The President read the following anniversary

ADDRESS.

The first meeting of the Institute took place on July 20th, 1869 ; we are therefore approaching the fifth year of our existence. In looking over the papers published by the New Zealand Institute, of which this one is an affiliated society, I think it will be generally acknowledged that, after we have subtracted those written by the official or Government staff, our share of work has been fairly done ; not that I would have you to relax your efforts in the pursuit of knowledge, but that they may be redoubled.

On Natural History we have had papers by Messrs. J. S. Webb, A. C. Purdie, A. Bathgate, W. D. Murison, P. Thomson, and R. Gillies, also by Captain F. W. Hutton ; on Mathematics, by Messrs. Brent and R. Wilding ; on Archæology, by Dr. Eccles ; on Botany, by Mr. J. Buchanan ; on Physics, by Messrs. M. Chapman and J. S. Webb ; on Geology, by Messrs. J. McKerrow, and L. O. Beal ; on Physical Geography, by Mr. P. Thomson ; on Ethnography, by Mr. J. T. Thomson ; on Meteorology, by Mr. J. S. Webb ; on Engineering, by Messrs. G. M. Barr and Villaine ; on Mechanics, by Mr. J. T. Thomson ; on Astronomy, by Messrs. J. S. Webb and H. Skey. These papers appear in the first five volumes of the New Zealand Institute, but were principally given in the 3rd, 4th, and 5th.

In choosing me as the third person to hold the presidency, you were so good as to give a reason for this—viz., that I had done work. It is no doubt a gratification to me to find that the little I have done has been thus appreciated, and, apart from all personal considerations, I think the principle a fair one, to be occasionally upheld as an incentive to exertion on the part of other workers, members of this Institute.

Observation is the practical and scientific basis on which our minds can work, and the more accurate and extended this be, so much the more just and comprehensive will be our views and conclusions. The country in which we live naturally presents the most ready and interesting field for observation.