

3. "On the Disappearance of Young Trout from our Streams," by W. Ferguson; communicated by T. W. Kirk. (*Transactions*, p. 235.)

4. "Note on a Rock Specimen collected by the Rev. W. S. Green near the Summit of Mount Cook," by Professor T. G. Bonney, F.R.S.; communicated by Professor Hutton. (*Transactions*, p. 334.)

Handsome and interesting specimens of Graptolites, which are interesting forms of great antiquity; also ores of copper and antimony from Nelson, and Alexandra, in Otago, collected by Mr. James Park, of the Geological Survey, were exhibited by the Director.

ANNUAL MEETING: 18th February, 1889.

W. M. Maskell, F.R.M.S., President, in the chair.

1. The Annual Report and Balance-sheet were read and adopted.

ABSTRACT.

Ten general meetings had been held, at which thirty-one papers were read on the following subjects: Eight on geology, nine on zoology, one on botany, three on chemistry, and ten on miscellaneous subjects. A conversazione was held in the Museum on the occasion of the departure from the colony for a time of Mr. W. T. L. Travers, F.L.S. Thirteen new members had been elected during the year. The balance-sheet showed that the receipts, including the balance brought forward for the year, amounted to £206 18s. 2d., and the expenditure to £156 7s. 2d., leaving a balance in hand of £50 11s. The report and balance-sheet were adopted.

The report contained a proposal made by the President, with the view to the greater encouragement of research in the different departments of the Society's work, and it had been resolved to submit the following scheme for the approval of members: That the Society offer bronze medals, to be given annually for the best papers in the following groups: (1) Natural science (botany or zoology or geology of the New Zealand zoological sub-region), one medal; (2) physics, chemistry, and technical science, one medal; (3) history, archaeology, and anthropology, one medal; (4) literature and philology, one medal; (5) philosophy; (6) art. That the Board of Governors of the New Zealand Institute be asked to appoint a judge in any group in each year for the papers competing in that group; that only those papers be submitted to the judges which shall have been read during the year at a meeting of the Society; that the writers of the papers must be members of the Society at the time the papers are read; that each writer must declare when sending in his paper if he wishes to compete; that the judges should be empowered to declare that in their opinion no paper of the year is sufficiently meritorious for a medal; that for the foregoing object the Society set apart annually £20 only of its income as a prize fund; that the medals be presented by the President at the first meeting of the Society ensuing after the receipt of the judge's awards; and that the Governors of the New Zealand Institute be requested to announce specially in the "Transactions" the names of the successful writers, though not necessarily to print the papers.

The scheme was, after discussion, adopted.

Mr. W. T. L. Travers moved a vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mr. Maskell, and in so doing referred to the great interest that gentleman had taken in the Society, and to the able manner in which he had carried out the duties of President. He also referred to Mr. Maskell's valuable contributions to the "Transactions"—especially to his work on the insect-pests now so numerous in the colony.

Mr. Maskell, in replying, referred to the visit to this colony of Mr. Albert Koebele, the German naturalist who had been despatched to the colonies by the American Government to investigate the presence of a parasite which feeds on the *Icerya purchasi*, and said he felt convinced that it was a matter of great importance to the colonies, as it certainly was one of most vital importance to the United States, where the ravages of the pests were enormous. Some years ago the blight was very prevalent in the Auckland, Napier, and Nelson districts, but it had never appeared in Wellington. In later years, however, he said, the natural enemies of the destructive blight had so rapidly increased as to render the pest now practically a thing of the past. He (the speaker), had been the first, about twelve years ago, to philosophically describe the pest. About six years ago a large valley near the Grafton Road, in Auckland, was literally a living mass of it, it being found by millions on every tree, shrub, and even gorse-bush; but lately he tried to get specimens in this valley, and was unable to get even half a dozen. This was in some respects also the case with the Napier district, and it he said, might be hailed with joy by growers of fruit. The blight was still prevalent in Nelson, but he had made arrangements to have some of the ladybirds—the insect which had taken to eating the *Icerya*—caught in Napier and forwarded to Nelson in order to stop the ravages of the blight in that quarter. He was sorry that the German naturalist he had mentioned could not be present at the meeting, but he had to leave Wellington yesterday for Napier, where he intended catching some hundreds of thousands of the ladybird-larvæ for transportation to America, and be in time for the American steamer leaving Auckland shortly. The facts which this gentleman had ascertained on the subject were exceedingly gratifying to the colonies and America, and, as the blight is gradually being got down, the fruit-growers may hope in a very short time to be able to grow their fruit free from this destructive insect.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1889.—*President*—Alfred de B. Brandon, B.A.; *Vice-Presidents*—Charles Hulke, F.C.S., Alexander McKay, F.G.S.; *Council*—Sir James Hector, Messrs. Govett, Travers, Tregear, Higginson, Maskell, and Hon. R. Pharazyn; *Secretary and Treasurer*—R. B. Gore; *Auditor*—T. King.

GENERAL MEETING.

New Members.—J. Duthie and C. H. Izard.

Papers.—1. "On the Electro-magnetism of Atmospheric Oxygen; its Causes, and some of its Effects," by the Hon. Robert Hart, M.L.C.

2. "Notes on some New Zealand Birds," by T. W. Kirk, F.R.M.S. (*Transactions*, p. 230.)