

ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

During the past year the Society has held seven general meetings, at which twenty-eight papers were read.

Eight new members have been added to the roll during the past year, and we have lost by death a most valuable member of the Society, the late Mr. W. Skey.

The balance-sheet shows that the receipts for the year, including the balance carried forward, amount to £164 17s. 6d., and the expenditure to £87 2s. 1d., leaving a balance in hand of £77 15s. 5d.

The Research Fund fixed deposit now amounts to £35 9s. 10d., which increases the credit balance to £113 5s. 3d.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1901.—*President*—Mr. G. V. Hudson; *Vice-presidents*—Mr. H. B. Kirk and Sir James Hector; *Council*—Messrs. G. Hogben, R. C. Harding, H. N. McLeod, R. L. Mestayer, E. Tregear, Martin Chapman, and George Denton; *Secretary and Treasurer*—Mr. R. B. Gore; *Auditor*—Mr. T. King.

Sir James Hector congratulated the President on his re-election, and spoke of the very efficient manner in which he had conducted the business of the Society during the past year.

Mr. Hudson briefly thanked the members for the honour conferred upon him.

Papers.—1. "Description of a New Ophiurid (*Amphiura aster*)," by Mr. H. Farquhar; communicated by the Secretary. (*Transactions*, p. 250.)

The specimen was found near Timaru by Mr. A. Haylock.

2. "On Seismograms of Distant Earthquakes," by G. Hogben, M.A.

Mr. Hogben said he wished to place on record what he took to be a notable event in the history of seismology in Australasia—that was, the identification of two or three of the tracings of the Milne seismograph in Wellington with those of somewhat similar instruments at European stations. On the recommendation of Sir James Hector, the New Zealand Government ordered two horizontal pendulums for recording one element of the minute or microseismic vibrations that passed round or through the earth. One of these was placed under his (Mr. Hogben's) charge, and it was now installed in a specially constructed room under his private house. Several months were occupied in allowing the masonry column on which the instrument was placed to settle, and in testing and adjusting the instrument. It was not, therefore, until October of last year that it was in full working-order. The instruments at the central Imperial station for Germany, which was also the headquarters of the International Seismological Association, appeared to have been in working-order on the 1st July, 1900. They were somewhat more sensitive than the Milne seismograph, and were of the type known as the Rebeur-Ehlert. The essential principle, however, was the same. He had received from Dr. Gerland, of Strasburg, and from Dr. Schutt, of Hamburg (where Rebeur-Ehlert pendulums were also installed), abstracts of the records of their instruments for the month of October, 1900. Of the fourteen shocks or series of shocks recorded at Strasburg, Mr. Hogben noted clear coincidences with shocks recorded in Wellington in three cases, and more doubtful coincidences in two other cases. One of the earthquakes, from the evidence available so far, seemed to have come from some place in the eastern Pacific, probably from the coast of Peru,