

- Papers.*—1. "Notes on some Glacier Moraines in the Leith Valley, Dunedin," by Professor Park. (*Transactions*, p. 444.)
2. "Notes on the Secular Movements of the New Zealand Coast-line," by Professor Park. (*Transactions*, p. 440.)
3. "Notes on the Thames Goldfields," by Professor Park. (*Transactions*, p. 435.)
4. "Reference List to the Literature of New Zealand Fishes," by Mr. A. Hamilton. (*Transactions*, p. 539.)
5. "Notice of an Electric Ray new to the Fauna of New Zealand, belonging to the Genus *Astrape*," by Mr. A. Hamilton. (*Transactions*, p. 224.)
6. "On the Method of Feeding by the Rorqual," by R. Henry.

A fine specimen of *Histopterus*; or boar-fish, caught off Napier in 1900, was exhibited.

A specimen of the brilliantly coloured fish "Opha" (*Lampris lima*) was recently caught off Timaru and exhibited in Dunedin, but was acquired for an Australian museum.

ABSTRACT OF ANNUAL REPORT.

The Council have held seven meetings for the transaction of the business of the Institute. During the session the Council have been deprived of the services of two of their number—viz., Mr. Melland, who went to England in July, and Dr. Hocken, who left Dunedin in August for a trip to Europe. Your Council did not deem it necessary to make use of their powers to fill these vacancies.

The usual number of meetings of the members has been held, and the plan adopted last year of arranging a definite programme of lectures has been again followed; yet the Council still have reason to regret the relatively small number of members that have been attracted by these lectures, which have covered a wide range of subjects. In addition to these lectures, eleven original contributions have been laid before the Institute for publication in the *Transactions*. A few years ago it was suggested that natural-history notes—records of observations scarcely worthy of being termed "papers"—might be made by members and handed to the secretary from time to time, but hitherto no response has been made. To the naturalist every careful and accurate observation, however slight and apparently unimportant, has its value, and the Council would welcome the notes, whether made by the wayside, or the seaside, or in the bush. Our native fauna and flora are rapidly disappearing, so that every opportunity should be taken of putting on record any observation of habits, of occurrence, of species, &c.

The number of new members elected during the session is eleven, and the Council hope that this is a promise of further increase, and that some of these new members will, by their efforts, contribute towards rendering the meetings interesting and varied.

During the last few years, owing to insufficiency of funds, it has been impossible to carry out the binding of the periodicals, but during the present session an attempt has been made to overtake the arrears; and, with the exception of some less important works, the periodicals up to date have been bound—namely, fifty-one octavo and twelve quarto volumes. The honorary librarian begs to point out to members the necessity of entering in the book provided for the purpose any volume borrowed

from the library, for during the present session one or two books have been taken away without this notification and have not been returned. It is in this way that books are liable to be lost. In view of the continued additions to the number of volumes, your Council have increased the sum for which the library is insured to the amount of £1,000. The yearly volume of the Transactions arrived on the 24th October, and was distributed to members as soon as possible.

At the beginning of the session a committee of your Council was appointed to revise the rules and constitution of the Institute, in order to bring them into agreement with the various changes effected by resolutions passed by the members from time to time since 1876, when the rules were last printed. The revised edition was issued to members in April of this year. A resolution was adopted that the Institute should be incorporated under "The Unclassified Societies Act, 1895." This matter will be carried out forthwith.

The fish-hatchery has received a good deal of attention since the last annual meeting. During the recess a deputation of your Council waited on the Minister of Marine, who was passing through Dunedin, in order to urge upon him the importance of proceeding with the matter at the earliest opportunity, and the desirability of appointing a board of management at once. The Minister stated that he considered the matter as practically settled, and your Council indulged in the hope that they might see the building commenced ere the year was out. The lease of the necessary land was drawn up, plans and estimates of the buildings were made, and the Inspector of Fisheries, together with representatives of the Acclimatisation Society and of your Council, visited the proposed site, marked out the position of the tanks, laboratory, house, &c., the Government surveyor received instructions to make a detailed survey and plans, and all looked most promising. But since that date nothing further has been heard of the matter, nor has any board of management been appointed, without which it will be impossible to proceed.

The Philosophical Institute of Canterbury, conjointly with this and other institutes, is engaged in compiling an "Index Faunæ Novæ-Zelandiæ," of which they hope to persuade the Governors of the New Zealand Institute to undertake the cost of publication.

Your Council desire to express their sympathy with Mr. Hamilton and with the publishers of "Maori Art" on the unfortunate accident that has delayed the issue of the final part. Not only were nearly all the copies of Part V. when just completed and ready for issue destroyed by fire, but the blocks used for the illustrations of that part and the embossing of the binding-covers suffered the same fate. It is satisfactory to learn that the loss was covered by insurance, and that the reproduction has now been prepared and will be shortly issued.

The balance-sheet showed the receipts from all sources during the year to be £535 18s. (including £400 on deposit and a balance of £16 0s. 6d. brought forward from last year) The balance on the year's expenditure amounted to £29 11s.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS FOR 1902. — *President* — Professor Benham; *Vice-presidents* — F. R. Chapman and C. W. Chamberlain; *Hon. Secretary* — G. M. Thomson; *Hon. Treasurer* — W. Fels; *Council* — Professor Park, Dr. Hocken, Dr. Colquhoun, Dr. Marshall, A. Hamilton, T. D. Pearce, and A. Bathgate; *Auditor* — D. Brent.

The President then gave an interesting address on the surroundings of the City of Dunedin. On its conclusion he vacated the chair in favour of Dr. Benham.