

FIFTH MEETING: 14th September, 1908.

E. V. Miller, Esq., President, in the chair.

*Papers.*—Professor F. D. Brown exhibited a cymometer, and gave a full account of its purpose and its applications to wireless telegraphy.

2. “On the Comparative Sanity of the Native-born and the Immigrant,” by Professor H. W. Segar.

In this paper three questions were discussed: Are the native-born of this country less liable to insanity than the remainder of the population? Is the immigrant population of New Zealand more liable to insanity than the people they have left behind in the countries of their birth? And, have the women of this country an exceptionally small liability to insanity? These points are raised by Dr. Hay’s report of last year on the mental hospitals.

3. “On the Trisection of an Angle,” by Professor H. W. Segar.

This briefly dealt with a remarkable approximate solution of a geometrical problem, a perfect solution of which by the methods of elementary geometry it is impossible to obtain.

SIXTH MEETING: 28th September, 1908.

E. V. Miller, Esq., President, in the chair.

*New Members.*—R. Gibb, G. T. H. De Cliye Lowe, L.R.C.P., H. H. Morgan.

Professor A. Jarman delivered a lecture on “The Metallurgy of Gold, and its Recent Improvements.”

After describing the characters of the metal, and its application for coinage and the industrial arts, the lecturer gave a brief account of the methods employed for extracting it from its various ores, and the machinery used in connection therewith. He then proceeded to describe certain recent improvements, giving full particulars in each case, and illustrating his remarks by lantern views and diagrams.

SEVENTH MEETING: 26th October, 1908.

E. V. Miller, Esq., President, in the chair.

*New Members.*—G. W. Allsop, J. H. Buddle, F. Earl, E. W. Sharman, L.R.C.P.

Mr. E. G. B. Moss gave a lecture on “The Maori Migration to New Zealand: why they came; how they came; what they brought; and what they found in New Zealand.”

The lecturer first spoke of the motives of the Maoris in coming to New Zealand, and how they came. The story was one, he said, of a migration in canoes (fragile craft under any circumstances) from a not definitely ascertained island called Hawaiki, some twenty-five or twenty-eight generations ago, or shortly after the invasion of England by William the Conqueror. This Hawaiki was indicated to Captain Cook to lie to the north-east. The lecturer contended that in undertaking the migration the Maoris must have come at least a thousand miles, or if from Rarotonga fifteen hundred miles, with only one small stopping-place, and without instruments of any kind—a wonderful feat of navigation. He went on to refer to the probability of the Maoris having known of New Zealand prior to this last migration, and the customs of the race when it settled. As to what the race brought to New Zealand, he mentioned dogs, kumaras, taro, yams, and calabashes. They found the moa, of which there must have been many when the race first came: but the only tradition they had was that of Apa and the moa, three hundred and fifty years ago. The lecturer expressed the opinion that it was very doubtful if New Zealand was inhabited before the Maoris came. Certainly the Maoris had traditions of finding inhabitants, but these were supposed to be Mortoris, and the stories were of doubtful origin and authenticity.

At the conclusion of the lecture Mr. Moss was accorded a vote of thanks.