

**PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS**

Session 1967 - 1968

Meetings and communications during the year were as follows.

*1st Ordinary Meeting*, October 12, 1967 (jointly with the Chemical Institute of Canada)

"C<sup>14</sup> Dating as applied to archaeology and geology" by K. J. McCallum, Professor of Chemistry, University of Saskatchewan.

*2nd Ordinary Meeting*, November 6, 1967

"Reverberation from biological scatterers in the ocean" by R. P. Chapman.

*3rd Ordinary Meeting*, December 11, 1967

(1) "Allelopathy, phytotoxins and phytoncides: some aspects of ecological chemistry" by O. Hutzinger, (2) "Food and growth in fish" by L. Dickie.

*4th Ordinary Meeting*, January 15, 1968

"The use and cultivation of seaweeds in Japan" by Miss C. MacFarlane.

*5th Ordinary Meeting*, February 12, 1968

(1) "An inherited biochemical deficiency in Nova Scotian Negroes" by G. R. Langley, (2) "An epidemiological survey of fractures of the hip in the Halifax area" by P. Gordon.

*6th Ordinary Meeting*, March 11, 1968

(1) "Evaluation of pharmaceutical products by chromatographic, spectroscopic and biological techniques" by G. Pataki, University of Basle, (2) "The factors affecting the internal stress in electrodeposited iron" by E. Levy.

*7th Ordinary Meeting*, April 8, 1968 (with the Valley Chapter).

(1) "Memory - why we forget" by P. R. H. James, (2) "The moss flora of Nova Scotia" by J. S. Erskine.

*8th Ordinary Meeting*, May 6, 1968

(1) "Light perception in the simple eye of a crustacean" by P. Eaton, (2) "Slumping and other sedimentation features in

the Whangaparaoa Peninsula, Northland, New Zealand" by M. Gregory, (3) "Measuring the deformation of the Earth caused by the Bay of Fundy Tides" by T. Lambert.

*107th Annual Business Meeting, May 13, 1968*

The meeting was presided over by the President, Dr. H. B. S. Cooke, who delivered the following address (abbreviated).

In reporting on the events of the year, I am happy to say that we have welcomed to the Institute 10 ordinary members and one associate member. Regrettably, we have also lost by death two former members - Dr. Harold Skinner King, a former editor of the Proceedings and a past president of the Institute, who died in September, 1967, and Dr. H. L. Bronson, who died in March, 1968. Dr. Bronson was a past president and a very distinguished member of the scientific community.

During the year we have had 6 ordinary meetings, one meeting with the Valley Chapter, and one meeting jointly with the Chemical Institute of Canada. The attendance has fluctuated between 23 and 68 with an average of 42.

There has been quite a range in the papers presented - 14 in all - and a rough analysis shows that these are divided as follows: 2 in the general area of Chemistry /Biochemistry, 4 in Marine Biology and Biology, 2 in Geology /Archaeology, 3 in Physics and Geophysics, 2 in Medicine, and one general survey of recent advances in Experimental Psychology.

Other activities during the year have centered in the Council, which has been involved, through a Committee, with detailed consideration of the constitution of the Institute. A draft revision will be tabled this evening. The library has also been the subject of discussion as a considerable portion is in rather perilous storage in the attics of the Technical College and Nova Scotia Museum. This has not only been a danger to the material itself, but has also provided considerable inconvenience. Furthermore, a request has been received for this material to be evacuated and a problem has arisen regarding its storage. A suggestion by Miss Evelyn Campbell that Dalhousie University might be able to provide storage space has led to the further suggestion that Dalhousie might undertake the task of looking after the library *in toto*. This has led to the preparation of a draft of an agreement between the Institute and Dalhousie University regarding the effective transfer of the Institute's holdings to Dalhousie's control and responsibility.

During the course of this year and, indeed, many times before that, I have wondered whether the Institute was fulfilling its proper role. It seems to me that in an area with some dozen major scientific institutions and with some hundreds of active scientists, an attendance of an average of 42 does not suggest that the Institute is really meeting the need that led to its first establishment. As a matter of

interest, I have looked through some of the early volumes of our Proceedings to try to feel the kind of atmosphere in which it came into being.

As I infer from their early documents, the founders were concerned with the existence in Halifax of a small isolated community with a very small but alert learned population. They recognised that there was no other forum in which these people could meet. The establishment of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science was, as I see it, the creation of a single learned society concerned with all the many disciplines which at that time could be grouped as natural science. They also realised that this was a relatively unexplored region in which the natural history was little known. Many of the early members were amateur natural philosophers - at a time when there were no national publications in Canada. The Transactions of the Nova Scotian Institute of Natural Science, therefore, are filled with documents recording the development of the geology, the biology, the meteorology and other features of this region.

There is, however, another element which I found interesting; this is the feeling amongst members of the Institute of the need to review from time to time the current status of various disciplines. There are a number of papers in the early volumes which do not present original material on the natural history of the region but try to convey to a varied group of learned men and amateurs an understanding of what was going on in various branches of science in the outside world. I found, for example, a long discourse by the secretary of the Institute in 1864, Mr. W. Gossip, on speculations regarding the origin of man. This kind of review of the standing of a particular discipline must have been of great value to the community at that time.

I believe that what is really needed in the Nova Scotian Institute of Science in the latter half of the 20th century is to attempt to get back to the kind of atmosphere which was created for people in a wide variety of disciplines so that they may learn what is going on in the many facets of the world of science. In 1863 or 1864 it was indeed possible for one man in his own head to carry the knowledge of most scientific disciplines of the time. This is no longer possible. Just as many of the amateurs of that time were laymen in the strict sense of the word, yet were learned in one branch of knowledge in proportion to the scientific knowledge of the time, so today the average scientist is a layman in all sciences other than his own. It seems to me then that we should concentrate very much more on well-organized interdisciplinary discussion which might try to break across the artificially created barriers of narrow specialization.

I also found in the early volumes of the Proceedings and Transactions that it was the view of the members that one of their functions was to make the community around them aware of scientific progress and of the need for scientific development. Here again is a role which is totally unfilled at the present time.

I feel that the Institute could play a valuable role if it were willing to attempt to cater for the need to inform the public at large of the work of science. I think, for example, of the possibility of organizing regular showings of up-to-date, authoritative, scientific films. I believe that if the public – and especially the schools – were invited to come to regularly scheduled meetings at which addresses were given on developments in new branches of science, or new films were shown, we would in fact begin to arouse some kind of interest in the community. This may be more in keeping with a modern interpretation of the objectives for which the Institute was founded.

I am sure that these views will be regarded by many as heretical and unacceptable. I wish that I could offer more concrete suggestions as to how we should move forward. All I can offer as my slender contribution is the thought that we should concern ourselves less deeply with details of the past constitution and more with a study of the things that are lacking today in our region. We should try to find the gaps which now exist and reframe our programme to fill those gaps – which are no longer the same gaps that led to the founding of the Institute.

I should like to conclude my remarks by expressing to the Council my very deep appreciation for their support during the year. We are particularly indebted to our Secretary, who has done a great deal of work, and to the active members of sub-committees. Thank you all very much for giving me an enjoyable year which, I hope, has not been entirely unproductive and not entirely unsuccessful.

*The Treasurer, M. Falk, reported*

Receipts.....	1,159.90
Expenditures.....	668.38
Permanent Fund.....	529.62
Total assets as of May 1, 1968.....	\$3,494.07

*The Editor, E. G. Young, reported* that the statutory Editorial Board has been revived and its members are serving in the review of manuscripts submitted for publication. The ms of Part II of *The Flora of Nova Scotia* by A. E. Roland and E. C. Smith has been received in greater part and should be completed in the summer of 1968. Special financing will be required because of its length.

*The Librarian, Miss E. M. Campbell, reported* systematic binding of periodicals has been continued inclusive of several new sets. The disposition of the whole library in its many localities at present is under active consideration by the Council.

*Officers elected for the year 1968-69 were*

President.....	J. H. Greenblatt
First Vice-president.....	A. C. Neish
Second Vice-president.....	M. L. Cameron
Secretary.....	N. Cuthbertson
Treasurer.....	M. Falk
Editor.....	E. G. Young
Council –	R. G. Ackman, J. E. Blanchard, W. L. Ford, C. W. Helleiner, A. G. McInnes, P. J. Wangersky
Auditors.....	W. J. Chute J. E. Stewart
Editorial Board –	H. B. S. Cooke, M. J. Harvey, I. A. McLaren and the Editor.

## PROCEEDINGS OF MEETINGS

(Valley Chapter 1967 – 1968)

*1st Ordinary and Annual Business Meeting, October 2, 1967*

Officers elected for the year 1967-68 were

President.....	D. Grund
Vice-President.....	H. J. Herbert
Treasurer.....	W. F. Lamoreux
Secretary.....	K. Stewart
Councillor.....	B. P. Robinson

“A year at East Malling Research Station” by R. G. Ross.

*2nd Ordinary Meeting, November 6, 1967*

“Mushroom poisoning” by D. Grund.

*3rd Ordinary Meeting, December 4, 1967*

- (1) “The plasticity of instinct in insects” by M. E. Wilczek,
- (2) “Report on a trip to the 1st Symposium on highbush blueberry culture held in Venlo, The Netherlands” by I. V. Hall.

*4th Ordinary Meeting, January 17, 1968*

“Some new aspects of food preservation – observations made at the International Congress of Refrigeration, Madrid, 1967” by C. A. Eaves.

*5th Ordinary Meeting, February 5, 1968*

“Land use and resource problems in Eastern Zambia” by D. Dodds.

*6th Ordinary Meeting, March 4, 1968*

(1) “Farmer’s lung” by J. J. Quinlan, (2) “Mycobacteriosis at the N. S. Sanatorium” by G. A. Kloss and J. E. Hiltz, (3) “The Clare district high school Tb epidemic” by V. K. Rideout.

*7th Ordinary Meeting, April 8, 1968 (jointly with parent society)*

(1) “Memory – why we forget” by P. R. H. James, (2) “The moss flora of Nova Scotia” by J. S. Erskine.