

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

ERNEST HESS

(Read October 18, 1943)

My first duty, to-day, is to record the death of two of our members during the last session. The Institute mourns the loss of Mr. George Barratt, Chemist in the Gas Department of the Nova Scotia Light and Power Company, who lost his life in a tragic bus collision on Bedford Road on June 2, 1943. A native of England, he came to Canada 13 years ago and became intensely interested in the organized labour and co-operative movements. He was one of the younger members of the Institute, having joined us four years ago.

On September 28, 1943, we lost through death Professor George A. Burbidge, Dean of the Maritime College of Pharmacy. A native of Newfoundland, he had spent the greater part of his life in Halifax where he had been active both as a practising pharmacist, as lecturer in Pharmacy and Materia Medica, and since 1921 as Dean of the Maritime College of Pharmacy. He joined the Institute over sixteen years ago, and as a member of the Council from 1927 to 1933 contributed much to the welfare of our organization.

To the families of these deceased members the Institute extends its deepest sympathy.

Our membership now stands at 112, consisting of 6 Corresponding or Honorary Members, 50 Ordinary, 36 Associate and 20 Student Members. During the past session we gained 15 members, namely 5 Ordinary, 2 Associate and 8 Student Members, but death and a revision of the membership list has brought about the loss of an equal total number.

On February 8, 1943, the Council elected D. J. Matheson, Esq., as an Honorary Member in recognition of his twenty-two years' faithful and successful service as Treasurer of our Institute.

On November 12, 1942, the Nova Scotia Museum of Fine Arts presented a portrait of the late Harry Piers, Esq., to the

Provincial Government. A number of members of the Institute were present on this occasion to honour the memory of our late Past-President and Recording Secretary. Dr. S. G. Ritchie spoke on behalf of the Institute.

Many members also accepted the invitation of the Halifax Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada to attend their February 25, 1943, meeting to hear an address by Mr. H. W. Lea, Director of the War-time Bureau of Technical Personnel.

Your President represented the Institute at the annual gathering of the Society of Professional Engineers of Nova Scotia and the Halifax Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada, on January 28, 1943.

During the session under review we have had, in spite of war-time restrictions in some departments with regard to presentation of research work—notably in chemistry and physics—a better than average number of papers and meetings. Twenty papers and three demonstrations were presented at 7 ordinary meetings, with an average attendance of 24 members and guests. Eighteen of the papers were those of members, while two papers were submitted by guests of the Institute. It has become almost a tradition for the President, in his annual address, to tabulate the papers according to the field of science in which they fall, as well as according to their source. These are the lists in alphabetical order:

Subject		Source	
Bacteriology	4	Biochemistry	6
Biochemistry	4	Biology	4
Botany	2	Chemistry	1
Chemistry	2	Fisheries	5
Pharmacology	1	Pharmacology	1
Physical Chemistry	1	Physiology	1
Physiology	1	Guests	2
Zoology	5		

It is gratifying to note, that in spite of many extra demands which war-time conditions have made upon the time and work

of our members, such interest in the affairs of our Institute can be recorded with regard both to presentation of papers and attendance.

While the Institute as a body, has not taken an organized part in the war effort, many of our members, individually, are contributing full time or part time work either in the Armed Services (six members), as research workers on war-time problems, or as volunteer workers in less conspicuous but nevertheless essential war-time services.

The Librarian will report to you on the condition of our library. War-time conditions have further decreased the number of accessions, and this is holding up the binding of certain sets of English periodicals. With the gradual establishment by many of the auxiliary services of libraries of their own, the demand for books from the Provincial Science Library by members of the Armed Forces has decreased to a certain extent, but is still substantial.

The Institute owes thanks to the Corresponding Secretary for the laborious work he finished during the session in re-arranging the back copies of our "Proceedings." A set of each issue still available is now housed on easily accessible shelves in the basement of the Medical and Dental Library.

As to the state of the current issue of the "Proceedings" I shall report to you later on, as Editor.

The Institute has, since its beginning, been intensely interested in its library of scientific periodicals from all parts of the world, and we are justly proud of the valuable collection the library presents to-day. Another type of library has in recent years gained prominence and has a very promising future. I refer to collections of silent and sound films of educational and documentary nature on scientific subjects. Locally, the Department of Education of Nova Scotia maintains a film library now containing some 500 silent and sound films. A Joint Sound Film Library exists within this organization, where the membership fee is the purchase of one sound film to be deposited in the library, and for each such film

deposited the Department will buy and deposit another one. In the national field the National Film Society and the National Film Board are active in the production and distribution of similar films. In the United States a number of scientific organizations are maintaining up-to-date lists of available films, among others the Society of American Bacteriologists. An *Educational Film Catalogue* is published annually in New York with quarterly supplements of newly produced films.

May I suggest that the Institute should appoint a small Committee to investigate the suitability and advisability of our affiliation with one or more of the already existing organizations interested in the production and distribution of scientific films, and to study in what way such films could be used to stimulate the work of our members individually, to make our meetings interesting to all members and at the same time to keep in step with new advancements in the presentation of scientific research.