

PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

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(Read October 21, 1946)

This occasion marks the beginning of the 85th annual session. It is my privilege to present a brief review of the Institute's year.

My first duty is to record the death of two of our members. The Institute mourns the loss, aged 76, of Dr. Albert G. Nicholls, a member since 1915, and active in various offices including that of First Vice-President, until his departure from Halifax in 1929. A native of England, he came to Canada while young and graduated in medicine from McGill University. After post-graduate work on the Continent he came to Halifax as Professor of Pathology at Dalhousie. On leaving Halifax he became editor of the *Journal of the Canadian Medical Association*. He was a man of wide literary as well as scientific interests and contributed much to the welfare of the Institute.

Our friend Professor Walter P. Copp, who died last January, joined the Institute in 1921, and was Treasurer from 1940-45 when, on retirement because of ill health, he was made an honorary member. A man of sterling character and unfailing good humor, he was beloved by students and colleagues alike. We shall miss him.

In the period under review seven ordinary members, four associate members and eighteen students members have been elected to the Institute. The total membership now stands at 151.

In addition to the Annual Business Meeting there have been five Ordinary Meetings at which the average attendance was 32. At the March meeting there was a vigorous discussion on "The Proposed Provincial Organization for Research in Nova Scotia" led by Dr. A. E. Cameron. On May 1st a joint meeting was held with the Maritime Section of the Chemical Institute of Canada at which an address was given

by Dr. A. Stanley Cook on "The History and Manufacture of Antibiotics." The address, which was interesting and timely, was illustrated by a color film. On April 15th the members of the Institute were invited by the Halifax Branch of the Engineering Institute of Canada to attend a lecture on "Atomic Energy" by Dr. George C. Laurence. Many interesting demonstrations served to illustrate various phases of the subject.

At the Ordinary Meetings there were twelve papers and two demonstrations, embodying work by 28 investigators. Of these four each were in physiology and fisheries biology, two each in chemistry and zoology, and one each in anatomy and biochemistry. Mathematics and physics were again unrepresented. The fact is that while their more essential colleagues were concerned with war, the biological group has kept the Institute going. It is to be hoped that the pre-war balance of presentations at meetings will be restored before long. Meanwhile the proponents of the science of life may, if they chose, comfort themselves in the knowledge that their special skills are the skills of peace.

A double number of the "proceedings" was sent out during the past summer and another number, made up largely of an account of the Flora of Nova Scotia, is in press. Publishing difficulties have continued and the Editor has been sorely tried.

The officers and Council have cooperated with characteristic fidelity to make the year's programme a success. No less than ten Council meetings were held during the past winter. D. H. B. Collier, who has served most efficiently as Recording Secretary for three years, resigned on leaving Halifax to accept a Chair in the University of Saskatchewan. It is a pleasure to place on record the Institute's thanks and best wishes to him.

The membership of the Institute and the attendance at meetings probably stood last year at the highest level in our history. We are also solvent. This is interesting in view of the complete absence of innovations designed to make the Institute into more of a social organization, or to dilute or popularize its scientific reports. Living as we do in the golden age of advertising, it is a matter of satisfaction to discover that an organization can flourish when it has nothing to offer except solid worth.

In concluding this report, and also my term of office, I wish to tell you how greatly I have appreciated the honour of presiding over the society.