

**93RD ANNUAL MEETING.
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

W. J. CHUTE

October 18, 1954

The Nova Scotian Institute of Science commences this evening its ninety-third session. I can report that the nonagenarian has lost none of its youthful vitality.

In keeping with custom I must introduce a note of sadness as I recall the deaths of two of our members.

Dr. A. C. Fales of Wolfville, N. S. died in November, 1953. He had been an associate member of the Institute since 1936. His early education was obtained in Nova Scotia and was followed by the M.D. from Harvard University. He practiced medicine in Nova Scotia and the United States for nearly a half century. Throughout his lifetime he was interested in the welfare and scientific advancement of his native province.

In January, 1954 the Institute suffered a severe loss through the death of Dr. C. C. Coffin, Head of the Department of Chemistry at Dalhousie University. Dr. Coffin had taken an active part in the affairs of this society. He had held several offices including that of President during the term 1946-48. He had presented a large part of his many contributions to science in papers and demonstrations before the Institute.

For the first time in several years it is necessary to report a slight decline in membership. Although we have added nine ordinary members and five student members in the past year, our losses through death, resignation and non-payment of dues numbers eighteen. Our total membership, subject to some slight uncertainty about the number of members in the Valley branch, stands at 285. A point in connection with these statistics deserves the attention of the membership. The fourteen new members do not include all those who were nominated for membership and accepted by Council. It is hoped that in the future all nominees will be introduced to the Treasurer. Those who have been accepted for membership but who have failed to pay dues are not included in the membership list.

The activities of the past year included the annual business meeting, seven ordinary meetings and three extraordinary meetings. The Council was convened on ten occasions. A total of twenty-one papers were presented at the ordinary meet-

ings. These papers dealt with many aspects of science and might be classified as follows:

Bacteriology	2
Biochemistry	1
Biology and Botany	3
Chemistry	3
Mathematics	1
Medicine and Medical Science	3
Meteorology	1
Nutrition	1
Physics	3
Physiology	3.

No difficulty was experienced in obtaining papers for these seven meetings. Since many of the papers were offered early in the season attention could be paid to programme selection. The average attendance at ordinary meetings was 44.

The Valley branch of the Institute has also seen an active year. Six meetings were held and seven papers presented. The papers, classified by subject, were: Agriculture 2, Botany 3, and Geology 2.

In the past few days you will have received Volume 23, part 3, of the Proceedings. The major content consists of the 214 page paper on "The Lepidoptera of Nova Scotia" by D.C. Ferguson. I believe we can take pride in having brought to publication this paper which, like the "Flora" and others in the past, makes an important contribution to a knowledge of natural science in the Maritime provinces. I believe, further, we must continue the policy of publishing such contributions when they become available. However, the costs of publication have increased greatly and issues of the Proceedings such as this will make heavy demands upon our reserve funds, despite the assistance we may receive from the sale of reprints. I would suggest that this meeting, and the Council which will be elected this evening, would be well advised to consider the finances of the Institute, as they will affect the future policy on publication.

In conclusion I offer my appreciation of the opportunity given me to serve the Institute during the past two years. I commend to your recognition the officers and members of Council, who through regular attendance at Council meetings, and diligent effort, have kept the Institute in the path of progress.