

**97th ANNUAL MEETING  
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

**J. R. Dingle**

October 17, 1960

During the year now closing we have learned with sorrow of the deaths of three of our members of long standing. Dr. V. O. Mader, for many years well-known as a physician and surgeon in Halifax, passed away on October 25th, 1959. Dr. H. R. Chipman died in Halifax on February 7th, 1960. Dr. Chipman was elected a life member of the Institute in October 1921, and for a number of years served the Institute faithfully as Editor and Councillor. He had served on the staff of the Halifax Station of the Fisheries Research Board, and then as a teacher of chemistry at Queen Elizabeth High School until his retirement about two years ago. His genial and witty personality won for him many friends. On May 14th, 1960 we lost Dr. E. F. Whyte, a native of Truro who had lived in Halifax since 1924. Dr. Whyte was for a time principal at Louisbourg Academy, and then joined the Food and Drug Division of the federal Department of Health, retiring as its Regional Director. He received the Queen's Coronation Medal for these services.

In addition to the annual business meeting, the Institute held 7 ordinary meetings, including one jointly with the Valley Chapter, and 2 extraordinary meetings. The ordinary meeting scheduled for November had to be cancelled because of a lack of papers. The 18 papers read at the ordinary meetings can be classified according the subject and institution of origin as follows:

Chemistry	4	Dalhousie, Medical Science	3
Biochemistry	5	Dalhousie, Biology	3
Biology	3	National Research Council	6
Bacteriology	1	Naval Research Establishment	1
Physiology	3	Fisheries Research Board	3
Physics	1	Saint Mary's University	1
Geology	1	Nova Scotia Technical College	1

The extraordinary meetings were addressed by Dr. Edwin A. Dawes, of the University of Glasgow on "Some Aspects of the Metabolism of *Zygosarcina Ventriculi*", and by Dr. J. Tuzo Wilson of the University of Toronto, on "Mountain

Building and the Physical Behavior of the Earth". Average attendance at the various meetings was 35, with extremes of 23 and 60.

The total membership of the Institute is roughly unchanged from last year, and stands at 301. During the year, 21 new members were proposed.

The Institute again held an essay contest but only 3 entries were received, all from one institution. In the opinion of the judges, none of these merited a prize, and accordingly none was awarded.

There has been a considerable delay in the publication of the Institute's Proceedings, and they are now 3 issues in arrears. One issue is, however, in the hands of the printers. We have two rather lengthy papers in the offing; preliminary manuscripts have been received, and the final drafts are promised for this month and late December respectively. We hope, if our finances will permit, to use these two papers as the bases for the other two issues that should be published as soon as possible. These plans, if carried out, will undoubtedly exhaust our financial resources. We were unsuccessful in obtaining an additional provincial grant of \$500 last year, but it is now obvious that the annual grant will have to be raised to at least \$750 if we are to continue such publications. The annual grant has stood at \$500 from time immemorial.

Professor H. S. Heaps has now served the Institute as Secretary faithfully and efficiently for 5 years, and I am happy to announce that the Council has awarded him a Life Membership. Dr. A. D. MacDonald has left Halifax for California, and hence we must do without his valuable advice on the Council. I should like to record my conviction that the Institute is much poorer for this loss.

Upon the whole, the past year leaves not a little to be desired. The essay contest was a failure, but I feel that this was due to a lack of interest on the part of the students rather than to poor publicity on the part of the Institute. It has been said that it might be better to suggest specific titles for the essays so as to guide the students to some extent, and perhaps this remedy should be tried before burying the contest altogether. Much more serious than this is a continued apparent lack of

interest and activity among the members themselves. As I mentioned last year, the number of papers presented seems too small for a membership of approximately 200 in the Halifax area. Furthermore, certain sections of our scientific community are not contributing at all, and, as I have said, it was necessary to cancel one of the regular meetings because of lack of papers. We had no student contributors last year, in spite of the valuable experience that they could obtain in this way. It may be that it is impossible for them to prepare and present talks during the Institute's season, but I would urge their professors to consider this matter again.

In spite of what I have just said, it appears that the majority of members feel that the Institute can best serve the needs of the scientific community by continuing its present form of meetings. It can in this way encourage a periodic communication among the various groups involved and discourage the fragmentation of our community into self-centered and even self-righteous splinters.

I feel that the time has come to inject some new blood into the Council of the Institute, and the several retirements that occur this year will make this easier to do. There is a considerable roster of relative newcomers with ideas and a considerable store of enthusiasm. This reservoir should be tapped, and I will venture to say that in doing so, first consideration should be given to ability of the individual rather than to representation of institutions. While I suppose that there is a certain amount of honour associated with membership in the Council, I think most of us will agree that this should be very much a secondary consideration in accepting such a post.

The present business meeting is the 97th of the Institute, which was founded on December 31st, 1862. It is generally agreed that the session to begin one year from now should be marked as our 100th anniversary. For several years there has been talk about some special event to mark this milestone, but the suggestions have been vague. In going over some old literature, I was surprised to find that the Institute held popular exhibitions in 1926 and 1928. The latter one was particularly impressive and the catalogue of exhibits shows that a tremendous amount of work was involved. Public response was said to be excellent. I suggest that the time has come for another such exhibition. Undoubtedly, you can think of many

reasons for undertaking such an expenditure of energy, not the least of which would be a rekindling of interest in the various sciences among the high school students. This sort of thing is perhaps the province of the Museum of Science, but as Dr. Weld mentioned in his Presidential Address of 1949, our Institute, the Museum, and the Research Foundation form a related trio. Then let them work together to commemorate the 100th Anniversary.

In connection with the matter of communication among members of our scientific community, I should like to mention briefly a matter that has been in the minds of some of our members. We have in this area government research laboratories and institutions of learning. The former are primarily intended to assist local industries and the development of the Atlantic region generally. Much of their work must necessarily be in the applied field, but this has to be based on so-called fundamental knowledge. Someone must produce the latter. There is much discussion over the proper division of this work between the two types of institutions I have mentioned. Most will agree that universities should be concerned only with the acquisition of fundamental knowledge, but some hold that only they should be so concerned. The principal answer to that stand is that the universities — at present at least — simply have not the facilities to deal with the large number of "fundamental" problems requiring solution, and the government research services are forced to do most of it in order to keep their applied work in a healthy position. The thought I wish to leave with you is this: university professors could help a great deal if they would familiarize themselves with the work going on in the government laboratories, and then design their own research programs so as to deal with some of the really basic problems which these institutions cannot deal with, but which conceivably could be useful in the future.

Gentlemen, I should like to record my thanks to the officers and Councillors who did so much to carry on the affairs of the Institute, and to you for having entrusted to me the office of President, and bearing with me for the past two years.