

## The Royal Society of Tasmania, 1843-1943

By

J. SOMERVILLE

PLATES VII-IX

The Royal Society of Tasmania was founded on 14th October, 1843, at a meeting convened by the Lieutenant-Governor Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot, Bart., and on the occasion of the centenary of this event it may be of interest to review the development of the Society and its honourable record of scientific achievement.<sup>(1)</sup>

Though an account of earlier institutions and scientific bodies has been given by Piesse (1913), the important part taken by Governor Arthur in launching and maintaining scientific societies should be recalled. The Mechanics Institute (1826) and the V.D.L. Scientific Society (1829) both flourished during Arthur's regime, and the latter Society, as well as being occupied with papers and discussions, also established a Museum.

The scientific interests of the colony were further stimulated by Sir John Franklin, who in 1838 formed the Tasmanian Society, which continued its meetings and publications till 1849. Thus, after the foundation of the present Royal Society in 1843 by Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot, the colony maintained two scientific societies for several years. However, as the Governor's patronage was given to the Royal Society, it is not surprising that the membership of the sister Society decreased until finally, in 1849, the remnant joined the Royal Society of V.D.L.

Apart from its intimate association with these earlier scientific bodies in Van Diemen's Land dating from 1821, the Royal Society claims to be the oldest scientific society in Australasia, as it has existed since 1843 without a break in its meetings and has an uninterrupted series of publications since 1844.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The history of the Society is given in part in the following papers:—

- SIR ROBERT HAMILTON.—Presidential address at the Hobart meeting of the Australian Association for the Advancement of Science, 1892.
- J. H. MAIDEN.—Records of the Tasmanian Botanists. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1909, pp. 9-29.
- A. MORTON.—History of the Royal Society of Tasmania. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1894-1895, Appendix, pp. 1-6. 6 plates.
- A. MORTON.—Some account of the Work and Workers of the Tasmanian Society and the Royal Society of Tasmania from the year 1840 to the close of 1900. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1900-1901, pp. 109-126.
- F. NOETTLING.—Notes on the Publications of the Royal Society of Tasmania. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1910, pp. 223-230.
- E. L. PIESSE.—The foundation and early work of the Society with some account of other institutions of early Hobart. *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania*, 1913, pp. 117-166, plates xiii-xx.

The name of the Society has been changed on several occasions. At the inaugural meeting it was decided to call the society 'The Botanical and Horticultural Society of Van Diemen's Land'. On 12th September, 1844, however, when Queen Victoria consented to become patron of the Society, the name was changed to 'The Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land for Horticulture, Botany, and the Advancement of Science'. The constitution was approved, the Gardens in the Domain were placed at the disposal of members, and an annual grant of £400 was confirmed.

By an Act of the Legislative Council in 1854, the property of the Royal Society was vested in Trustees, and in 1855 the name was altered to 'The Royal Society of Tasmania for Horticulture, Botany, and the Advancement of Science'.

When the Act of 1854 was repealed in 1911, the Royal Society Act (2 Geo. V. No. 47) adopted the shorter title of 'The Royal Society of Tasmania', and, by the same Act, the Society was created a body corporate, with powers conferred upon it in regard to (1) holding property, (2) litigation, and (3) making and altering rules.

#### AIMS AND OBJECTS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

According to the original rules in 1843, the leading objects of the Society were 'to develop the physical character of the Island, and illustrate its natural history and productions'. This definition was retained till 1907, when new rules declared that 'the objects of the Society are the prosecution of the study of Science in its various branches, and more especially the development of a knowledge of the physical characters and natural history of Tasmania and the neighbouring States'. This was re-embodied in the new rules made under the Royal Society of Tasmania Act, 1911, but in 1914, when it was deemed advisable to broaden the scope of the Society's aims, Rule 1 was altered to read 'The object of the Society is the advancement of knowledge', and this rule is still in force.

#### MEETING PLACES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

The inaugural meeting was held on 14th October, 1843, in the library at Government House, Macquarie Street, and a further meeting was held at Government House in the same month.

1844-46. 'The meetings were held in town, frequently at the office of the Colonial Treasurer'<sup>(1)</sup> (Hon. P. Fraser).

1846-47. The Society met in the house of the Secretary, at the Botanical Gardens. This was built in 1829 and is now occupied by the Superintendent of the Gardens.

1848-52. The Governor, Sir William Denison, placed at the Society's disposal the large Committee Room at the Legislative Council Chambers and later allowed the use of his own ante-room for the collections and the library. This room may be regarded as the first home of the Museum and Library. Towards the end of this period the limited accommodation afforded by their quarters began to exercise the Council.

In 1852 the Society moved to Harrington Street, opposite St. Joseph's Church. There has been some misconception as to the precise building to which the Society moved in 1852. At that time there was a house (Conara) at the corner of Harrington and Macquarie Streets with its entrance in the latter. Adjoining it,

(1) E. L. Piesse, *loc. cit.*, p. 145.

but separate from it, was a second house situated wholly in Harrington Street. It was this latter house which was occupied by the Society. Both houses were owned by George Whitcombe. In 1852 G. A. Anstey resided in 'Conara' and he was followed by Miss Emily Lavers, whose name appears on the ratepayers' roll for several years, whilst at the same time the Royal Society occupied the Harrington Street building which had been erected in 1847. The two houses were converted into a single building during the occupancy of the Metropolitan Drainage Board at some time during the period 1904-1907. To-day, this building, with its main entrance in Macquarie Street, is occupied by Dr. V. R. Ratten.

The Society remained in its Harrington Street home until the end of 1862, when it moved into the present Museum which had been built through the Society's efforts. During the Harrington Street period the Council was constantly faced with the problem of the need for more commodious quarters to house the growing Museum and Library. The Government viewed favourably the Society's need for a permanent building, and sites in (1) Fitzroy Crescent, (2) Murray Street (on the site of the old gaol), (3) Collins Street, (4) Franklin Square, (5) new Government buildings, Murray Street, were considered. Finally, the site<sup>(1)</sup> of the present Museum was given to the Society in 1860.

The total cost of the building with fittings was about £4800, of which members subscribed about one-third.

1863-1902. Until 1902, the room which is now the Director's Office housed the Society's library and was generally used for the meetings of the Society. Special meetings were held in the Art Gallery—after 1889; also the monthly meetings 1900-1901.

1902-1930. The room leading out of the entrance hall at the foot of the main staircase was used by the Society until 1930, when the removal to the present room was effected. The latter is now proving to be inadequate and additional accommodation will have to be made available when the much needed new Museum wing has been provided.

#### ACTIVITIES OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA

The Society's main activities during its history may be given briefly as follows:—

1. Development of the Botanical Gardens.
2. Development and growth of the Museum.
3. Development and growth of the Library.
4. The Society's monthly meetings.
5. Branches and achievements.
6. Publication of Papers read before the Society and of the Proceedings of the Society.
7. Activities other than scientific.

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<sup>(1)</sup> The historical associations of the site should not be forgotten. When Collins landed, 20th February, 1804, and tents were pitched, Knopwood's tent was on the spot where the Museum steps and entrance doors now stand. Later, the block of land formed that portion of the Government House grounds on which was situated the Private Secretary's cottage.

## 1. THE BOTANICAL GARDENS

The present Botanical Gardens were originally part of 50 acres granted by Governor Collins in 1806 or 1807 to John Hangan, from whom the land was purchased by R. W. Loane in 1813. His title was not recognised by Governor Sorell who, assuming the land, established thereon the Government Gardens or Colonial Gardens in 1818 (Piesse, 1913).

In 1828, Governor Arthur having decided to develop the grounds as botanical gardens and to specialize in native flora appointed a Superintendent (William Davidson) 'at a salary of £100 per annum with rations and a house to live in'. Accordingly, the present stone house, which is still in use, was built and occupied by Davidson, 1829. The wall (Piesse, p. 122) with its fireplaces and flues may still be seen, and the original gateway where the visitor's book was signed now stands close to the entrance to the present Herbarium.

Up to the end of Governor Franklin's regime, the Gardens were maintained from public funds for the sole use of the Lieutenant-Governor. At the appointment of Lieutenant-Governor Eardley-Wilmot, however, the Secretary of State decided that the Colonial Gardens should no longer be maintained from public funds. The new Governor then proposed to hand over the Gardens to the newly-formed Society, with an allowance of £400 a year from public funds for their maintenance. On 1st January, 1844, the Society entered into possession. Since Horticulture was one of the original objectives of the Royal Society it followed that, during the early years the Gardens absorbed most of the energies of the Society. Even when, in the early sixties, the maintenance of the Gardens involved a serious financial burden, and the Council found itself in straitened circumstances, the Gardens were not allowed to suffer. Considerable popularity was gradually achieved as may be seen by the numbers who signed the visitors' book.

1847	2,287
1856	13,251
1863	20,488
1885	67,000

The Society's control continued until 1885, when the Council of the Royal Society handed over its interests in the Botanical Gardens and Museum to the State Government, which placed the administration in the hands of a Board of Trustees and accordingly, until 1911, the Curator of the Museum was also Curator of the Botanical Gardens. Since 1911, however, the Superintendent of the Gardens has been the officer in charge, whilst the Curator of the Museum has acted as Secretary to the Board. The representation of the Society on the Board will be referred to in another section of this paper.

Considerable alterations and improvements have been effected since 1900. The teahouse was built and opened in 1908, the bush house in 1910. Radical changes planned by the Trustees in 1932 were at first viewed with grave concern by a section of the public. Further improvements were planned in 1936 *et seq.* and the present condition of the Gardens with the spacious lawns, extensive vistas and the fine Conservatory, built with money provided by the late Hon. L. M. Shoo-bridge, the Tasmanian Government, and the City Council, provided ample evidence of the wisdom of the policy pursued by the Trustees. It is to the late Hon. L. M. Shoo-bridge that the main credit for the Conservatory should be given. It was his conception, and without his enthusiasm and perseverance it is doubtful whether a Conservatory would ever have been built at the Gardens. Mr. Shoo-bridge offered

to contribute a sum of money provided that the Government and the Hobart City Council contributed a like amount. It is only right to add that, once the Government became involved in the scheme, they spared no expense in providing labour and material to ensure the success of the project. The Conservatory, which is regarded as one of the finest in the Commonwealth was designed by the Superintendent, I. V. Thornicroft.

*Superintendents of the Botanical Gardens—*

William Davidson	1828-1834
Martin Tobin	1834-1840
J. Herbertson	1841-1844
— Grant	1844-1845
J. Dickenson	1845
F. W. Newman	1845-1859
Francis Abbott, Junr.	1859-1903
John Wardman	1911-1932
Leonard Rodway	1928-1932—Director
Clive Lord	1932-1933—Acting Officer in Charge
Olive Rodway	1932-1935—Acting Assistant Secretary
Ira D. Thornicroft	1936- —Superintendent

*Residence of the Superintendent.* As previously stated, a stone house was built for the Superintendent in 1829 and was occupied by W. Davidson and his successors, Tobin and Herbertson.

In 1843, however, when Lieutenant-Governor Eardley-Wilmot handed the gardens over to the newly-formed Royal Society of V.D.L., the Council decided that their Secretary should reside in the house hitherto occupied by the Superintendent and that for the latter a cottage should be built. In 1845, the Council proposed to fit up the rooms of the stone house lately occupied by the Secretary as a Museum and Reading-room, and meetings of the Society were held there, 1846-47. The house not being required by Dr. Lillie nor by succeeding secretaries, the Superintendent (W. Newman) in 1847 was allowed temporary occupation, and this privilege was also accorded to Francis Abbott. In 1887, the Trustees of the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens were granted the Private Secretary's house (present Government House grounds) for the use of the Superintendent, Francis Abbott, who occupied this house till his death in 1903. From 1887 till 1911, the stone house was used partly as a seed store and as the residence of the foreman, but since 1911, the occupants have been—

John Wardman	1911-1932
L. Rodway	1932-1935
I. V. Thornicroft	1936-

## 2. THE MUSEUM

The first rules of the Society, which were adopted on 28th October, 1843, provided for the establishment of a Museum. Specimens soon came into the possession of the Society, both by gift and purchase, and a serious problem which exercised the Council in the early days was the provision of suitable quarters to house both Museum and Library. As already stated, the Society had two moves before it acquired its present home, viz., to Parliament House and to Harrington Street.

The growth of the Museum collections and the progress made by the Botanical Gardens was such that by 1885 they had attained the position of national institutions. In that year, the Society relinquished control of these two bodies and their administration was vested by the Government in a Board of Trustees, six of whom were members of, and elected by, the Council of the Royal Society, five were officials appointed by the Government, and one, the Crown Trustee, was nominated by the Governor. An amendment to the Tasmanian Museum and Botanical Gardens Act, 1885, passed in 1926, reduced the number to seven, viz., six members from the Council of the Royal Society, and one Crown Trustee. This section was repealed in 1938, and the clause amended as follows: 'Five trustees were to be elected by the Council of the Royal Society, two to be appointed by the Government, and two to be appointed annually by the Hobart City Council. A third amendment, in 1939, changed the representation to two Council nominees, five who are appointed by the Government and two annually by the Hobart City Council. When this amendment was passed in 1939, some members of the Society viewed with considerable apprehension the reduction in the Society's representation on the Board of Trustees, but in spite of this change the two institutions remain united in aims and service. In actual fact, four of the five Government Trustees are members of the Royal Society. The Government has taken a liberal view of its obligations to both institutions and has afforded greater financial assistance to them than at any previous period in their history.

The Museum, when erected in 1863, consisted of the four rooms at the corner of Argyle and Macquarie Streets, the two galleries parallel to Macquarie Street, and the entrance hall and stairs. The 1886 additions, which cost £3000, were the two Argyle Street rooms on the right of the entrance, and these were opened by Sir Robert Hamilton in 1888. By 1900, additional space was again an immediate necessity which was met by the vote of £4000 which was passed during the Parliamentary session of that year. The new portion faced the lane and consisted of two rooms, the present Library and Art Gallery, of which the front portion was built of stone from Brighton and Waterworks quarries. At the same time the open court between the old and new wings, now the Zoological Gallery, was enclosed and roofed. The opening of these new additions in 1902 represents the Museum as it is to-day. Though the building has remained unaltered since 1902, that has not been so in regard to its possessions. So numerous and valuable were the accessions that suitable accommodation again provided a serious problem by 1913, when the Trustees of the Museum and the Council of the Royal Society applied to the Government for an extension of the Museum buildings. The application was favourably considered, but the War 1914-18 prevented the fulfilment of the proposed assistance. A further application for extension of building and also for an increased grant was made in 1919, but funds were not available, though an additional vote of £100 for the Gardens was obtained.

If the position were acute in 1913, it is evident that the continued progress of the Museum has since raised it to one of major importance. With a full appreciation of the difficulties facing the Trustees, the present Government, after consideration of alternative schemes, voted the sum of £11,000 in 1940 for the proposed new wing, the erection of which has necessarily been postponed for the duration of the war. Though faced with these limiting conditions of accommodation, the Trustees, however, have resolutely adopted a policy of progressive development, in keeping with modern Museum methods, in regard to reorganization and arrangement of exhibits, as is evident from the new habitat groups, historical gallery, etc. The Society, therefore, may view with pride the Museum which to-day occupies an

important position in the educational, cultural, and scientific life of the community. The Museum has been fortunate in its Curators and Directors, who have devoted themselves wholeheartedly to its service and progress. The title 'Director' replaced that of 'Curator' in 1922.

It has been thought desirable to direct attention to the development of the Museum and Gardens after the Society relinquished control of these institutions, since the close association between the Museum and Botanical Gardens on the one hand and the Society on the other did not cease with the 1885 Act. This was particularly the case with the Museum, which, unlike the Botanical Gardens, must be regarded in every respect as the child of the Society. It is not too much to say that, since 1885, the development of both the Society and the Tasmanian Museum have been just as closely linked as in the earlier days when the Museum was directly administered by the Society. This close association owes much to the happy circumstances that since 1885, with the exception of one or two short breaks, the administrative head of the Museum has also been Secretary of the Royal Society. Under the Act of 1885, the Society retained the right of exclusive possession of sufficient rooms in the Museum for the safe custody of its library and for all other purposes connected with the Society's activities. Though nearly sixty years have elapsed since the Museum was first administered by a Board of Trustees, it would be difficult to lay down a line of demarcation between the functions and activities of the two institutions. As the years have passed, the parent has perhaps become more dependent upon its child but, whatever service the Museum may have rendered to the Society, the Museum Trustees have recognized the historic part which the Society played, in very difficult circumstances, towards the creation of the Museum and its establishment on a firm foundation. The Library has been of inestimable value to the scientific workers in the Museum and for this, as well as for other reasons, the association of the two institutions has been most vital. In this year of the Centenary it is unthinkable that a day should ever come when the close bond which exists between the two bodies should ever be broken.

*Curators of the Museum and Art Gallery—*

— Whiting	1862
Thos. Roblin	1862-1883
Alex Morton	1883-1907
Robert Hall	1908-1912
T. Thompson Flynn, Hon. Curator	1912-1913
G. H. Hardy, Assistant Curator	1913-1917
T. Thompson Flynn, Hon. Curator	1916-1918
Clive E. Lord, Assistant Curator	1918
„ Curator	1919-1922
„ Director	1922-1933
A. N. Lewis, Hon. Director	1931
Joseph Pearson, Director	1934-

## THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM COTTAGE

Reference has been made to the Private Secretary's cottage<sup>(1)</sup> in the original Government House grounds on the block of land given to the Royal Society in 1862.

A private house had been erected on this block of Crown land. After passing through several hands, it was rented by the Commissariat Department as a grain store in 1817. Two years later resumption was proposed by Sorell and compensation paid to the owners, Palmer & Co. of Calcutta (H.R.A. III. III, p. 13).

Ross in 1831 states that 'several alterations and additions had been made to the old Commissariat store near Government House, converting it into a neat and convenient cottage residence for the Private Secretary, W. T. Parramore'. It was the residence of the successive Private Secretaries until 1858, when the new Government House and grounds were occupied by Sir H. E. Fox Young.

When no longer required by the Governor, the cottage was used as an office by the Public Works Department, and finally in 1871 was given to the Tasmanian Museum Trustees as a residence for the Curator (Thos. Roblin). Alex Morton was the next occupant 1883-1890, but when a Government cottage on the Domain was made available for Morton in 1890, the caretaker, John Arnold, entered into possession of the Museum cottage.

## 3. THE LIBRARY

Provision for the establishment of a Library was made in the original rules, but in the early years the Library was regarded as an auxiliary only, though an indispensable one, to the Museum. The first book, 'Loudon's Encyclopaedia of Plants', was purchased in 1846, and by 1849, the Library contained 250 volumes. On the 1852 balance-sheet, the sum of £115 9s. 7d. is listed for 'books to illustrate the contents of the Museum', and similar amounts occur in subsequent years. Among the treasures thus obtained are Gould's (1) Birds of Asia, (2) Birds of Australia, Hooker's Flora of New Zealand, etc.

A catalogue was published in 1850 which lists 329 books and pamphlets, a second followed in 1856, whilst a third was compiled by A. Morton in 1885. The annual report in 1913 records the number of books and pamphlets as about 9000 and further states that the Society's Library had long overgrown the accommodation provided. Not only was there no shelving in the Library Room for many of the books, but hundreds of volumes were distributed in other rooms of the Museum, in the basement, and in cupboards. More shelves were therefore added, and E. L. Piesse, Acting Hon. Secretary, undertook the task of compiling a catalogue and arranging the books. During his absence later, on war duties, L. Dechaineaux acted as Hon. Librarian until 1918, when Clive Lord was appointed to the dual position of Secretary and Librarian. The report, 1924, recorded 14,000 volumes for which space was urgently required. The need was met to some extent when, in 1930, the Library was moved from the Argyle Street room (now Tasmanian Ethnographical Room) to that in use at present. Catalogue revision was again in arrears owing to the rapid expansion of the Library, and for a time Miss A. E. Giblin assisted with this work.

(1) It may be recalled that after Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot was superseded as Administrator by C. J. Latrobe, 13th October, 1846, he retired to the Private Secretary's cottage, where he died 3rd February, 1847.

Another interesting link is associated with the Marquis of Salisbury who (then Lord Robert Cecil) was the guest of Sir William Denison in 1852. During his visit he became seriously ill and was removed to the cottage, then occupied by Lieutenant Andrew Clark, the Private Secretary, where he remained until his recovery two-three months later.

Upon the removal to the present room, Mrs. A. N. Lewis presented the carved blackwood scroll containing the Society's crest, now incorporated in the panel screen behind the President's chair.

In November, 1933, Mrs. Clive Lord was appointed Assistant Librarian, and the Council has recorded appreciation of the service she has rendered as assistant to Dr. J. Pearson, Secretary and Librarian, since 1934. The Library has been reorganized, additional shelves and three new bays have been installed, a new type of book cover for loose volumes has been introduced and a Card Index of Journals and Periodicals has been prepared, whilst an author and title index of text-books is in course of preparation. A detailed Card Index for Journals and Periodicals, including and extending Pitt's Catalogue List, is also being compiled.

At the close of 1942, the Library contained 20,366 volumes, and many reports and pamphlets. The number of institutions on the exchange list was 270, comprising 124 British, 54 American, and 92 from other parts of the world. Other journals, for which no exchange is required, are also received. The Library is fortunate in its possession of foreign material, and the journals are in demand by libraries of other States.

The Library is extensively used by members, students, scientific workers, and by various public departments. Thus the Society has reason to be proud of its Library, whose value to the State as a source of reference on scientific and historical matters is widely recognized.

#### 4. MEETINGS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

In the early years, much business now dealt with by the Council was discussed at the monthly meetings, when lists of accessions to the Museum, Library, and Gardens were tabled and reports thereon discussed. This practice was continued even after 1885, particularly in connection with Museum exhibits. Not only were scientific papers read at these meetings, but also many subjects of a general nature related to matters of public interest or of importance in the development of the country occupied the attention of members. Numerous exhibits of the then comparatively little known natural history of the Island were presented at the meetings, and the resultant free discussion was a feature of the monthly reports, 1843-1907. Since that date, however, the main feature of the meeting has become more and more confined to the address on a scientific, historical, or literary topic, the discussion thereafter being subject to limitations if the lecture was not of a general nature. The effect of the dominant interests of members is evident when reviewing monthly abstracts, e.g., 1900-1912, when the Medical section was active, medical and general health topics occurred frequently. E. L. Piesse's active membership is reflected by the ordinary and special meetings which dealt with the constitution and rules of the Society, and later still, historical subjects held pride of place.

#### 5A. BRANCHES OF THE SOCIETY

*Northern Branch.* In 1853, at a meeting held at Franklin Lodge, a building in the Horticultural Society's Gardens (now the City Park), Launceston, a Northern Branch was formed, and among those present were W. Henty (chairman), R. C. Gunn, J. McArthur, C. Henty, W. Cleveland, and Rev. C. Price. In 1855, this branch received a grant of £63 17s. from the Society. Later the meetings were held in a room in the Public Buildings, but no record occurs in reports after 1860, though mentioned in Walch's Almanac until 1878.

Under the Royal Society Act, 1911, an addition to the rules in 1919 gave the Society power to create local branches, and accordingly in 1921, at a meeting in

the Mechanics Institute, the branch was reformed. W. R. Rolph was in the chair, and those present included G. H. Hogg, J. W. Bethune, C. W. Atkinson, Loftus Hills, F. Heyward, F. M. Littler, W. D. Reid, and J. R. Forward.

During the first year of its existence, the Branch not only held seven monthly meetings but also sponsored two public meetings in support of a proposal to establish a national reserve in the Cradle Mt.-Lake St. Clair region.

Since that date, it has been an active body, arousing considerable interest in historical records and relics and in Tasmanian ethnology. The work of some of the members will be mentioned under (1) 'Sections' and (2) 'Publications'. The Branch was also responsible for setting up in Royal Park, Launceston, a memorial pillar to mark the site of the observatory of A. B. Biggs, where what are now accepted as the official determinations of the latitude and longitude of Launceston were made. The telescope constructed and used by Biggs was bequeathed to the Royal Society in 1902. It was on loan to the University for many years, but in the absence of adequate facilities for accommodation and use, it was finally decided to return it to the executors. This was done in 1918.

Meetings were held at the Public Library (Mechanics Institute) until 1937 when, after the completion of the Fall-Hartnoll Memorial Wing at the Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery, the Launceston City Council gave permission to the Branch to make the Library and Lecture-room its permanent headquarters. With at last a settled home, the Branch has been organizing and extending its Library, and arrangements have been made with the parent Society for a selection of current scientific periodicals to be forwarded monthly.

As early as 1926, arrangements for the permanent retention in Launceston of historical material acquired by the Branch were made.

In 1930, there was initiated a custom, still (1943) in operation, of throwing the first meeting of the session open to the general public, and on that occasion subjects of popular interest are chosen. The move has met with marked success.

*Branch Presidents—*

G. W. Waterhouse	1921-1922
Hon. Tasman Shields	1923-1932
W. R. Rolph	1933-1934
A. L. Meston	1935-1937
F. J. Heyward	1938
F. Smithies	1939-1943

*Branch Secretaries—*

J. R. Forward	1921-1922
G. H. Halligan	1923-1924
R. S. Padman	1925-1929
E. O. G. Scott	1930-1931
A. L. Meston	1932
E. O. G. Scott	1933-1937
N. B. J. Plomley	1938
E. O. G. Scott	1939-1943

Other members who have taken an active part in forwarding the interests of the Branch are J. E. Heritage, R. O. Miller, R. A. Scott, D. V. Allen.

*Midlands Branch.* A Midlands Branch was established at Oatlands in 1920 as the result of the efforts of R. Kermode, but no reference to its meetings is contained in the Society's reports later than 1922.

#### 5B. ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE SOCIETY

The period 1843-1900 has been dealt with by Morton and by Maiden and, therefore, but a brief reference is needed. Papers by members were at first published in the *Tasmanian Journal*, notable contributors to which included John Gould, Professor Owen, Captain J. Ross, Count Strzelecki, Captain Sturt. This journal ceased publication in January, 1849, and Vol. I, Part I of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* was published in May, 1849. The subjects of meteorology, zoology, botany, geology and matters of general interest, such as the weather, exploratory tours, introduction of salmon trout, engaged the attention of members, by whom numerous papers were read and discussed. In a new country such as Tasmania then was, a knowledge of species and their distribution was not only a matter of scientific interest but also one of vital economic importance, and the naturalists therefore, provided with a rich unexplored field, contributed a wealth of descriptive notes. Some of the prominent workers were Ronald Gunn, Baron von Mueller, John Gould, Dr. Milligan, R. Bastow, Morton Allport, A. Biggs, R. M. Johnston, T. Stephens, W. V. Legge, and J. B. Walker.

The opening of the 20th century forms a dividing line between classical and modern science. The experiments of Bateson, 1897, and the re-discovery of Mendel's work in 1901 resulted in a growing appreciation of the inter-relation of genetics, cytology, physiology, and ecology, and this, coupled with the reaction on scientific progress effected by the researches of Rontgen, Einstein, Bohr, and Rutherford has raised problems which necessitated new approaches and new methods of analysis. Thus the 20th century has become the era of research institutions and specialized students. The contributions of the Society during the period 1900-1943 should therefore reflect to some extent the influence of this revolution in natural and biological science. The first notable advance was the formation and activity of sections.

*Medical Section.* In 1896, seventeen members established a Medical Section, prominent members of which were G. H. Butler, E. L. Crowther, A. H. Clarke, and G. Sprott. Many highly technical papers were read and discussed at the Sectional meetings, whilst medical subjects of a more general nature were brought before the Society and public interest aroused in the health of the community. Activities continued until 1912, the Section receiving an annual grant of £12 for the purchase of medical books.

The Southern Branch of the B.M.A. affiliated with the Section in 1912, and, later, having attained an independent status, paid an annual subscription to the Society for the use of the room and the control of the Sectional Library. To the latter was added in 1916, 200 medical books, the gift of Dr. Wolfhagen.

*Historical and Geographical Section.* Mainly owing to the zeal of J. B. Walker, Bishop Montgomery, and J. W. Beattie, an historical and geographical section was formed in 1899 and resulted in valuable donations to the Library and collections of the Society, e.g., the sketches of (1) Captain Owen Stanley and (2) Simpkinson de Wesselow, as well as contributions of important data relative to early Tasmanian settlement and exploration. After the death of J. B. Walker and the departure of Bishop Montgomery, little was done until 1916, when a section named the Australian History and Economic Section was formed. H. Heaton submitted a

report on the nature and extent of Tasmanian MSS. in the Mitchell Library and J. Moore-Robinson investigated old records in Government Offices with the result that the Society decided to urge the Government to compile a catalogue of old MSS. in the keeping of the various State Departments. Revitalized by Clive Lord, the section, under its original title entered on its period of greatest activity (1921-1933), when much valuable research was done, data collected, and attention directed to the value of historical records of the State. With W. F. D. Butler as Chairman, and J. Reynolds, Secretary, the chief contributors were Clive Lord, W. L. Crowther, J. Moore-Robinson, R. W. Giblin, G. H. Halligan, and J. W. Beattie. The Tasman and other memorials were erected, and attention was directed to the need for preservation of old monuments and burial grounds, e.g., St. David's. The Franklin and other MSS. and much of the valuable Beattie collection of historical relics and papers were obtained. Though some of this work is now undertaken by the Tasmanian Historical Society, the latter owes its origin to active members of the historical section of the Royal Society. Among present contributors to the Society on Tasmanian History, the researches of W. H. Hudspeth, A. L. Meston, W. L. Crowther, H. O'May, and C. Craig are well known to all members. The value of historical records and relics and the necessity to preserve buildings and other old landmarks has frequently been stressed not only by members but also by the Council, which has taken steps to arouse the public conscience in this respect.

Similarly, the Society has made a feature of celebrating anniversaries of important events, e.g. (1) Bowen's Landing at Risdon, 1803; (2) Constitutional Separation, 1825; (3) Sir John Franklin's Arrival in V.D.L., 1837; (4) Tasman's Discovery of Tasmania, 1642. For the Tercentenary of the latter in December, 1942, special meetings were held and relevant papers read.

*Psychology and Education Section.* The new outlook on Education and the recognition of psychology as a branch of mental science resulted in the formation in 1911 of a new section, viz., Psychology and Education. With S. Clemes, Chairman, and J. A. Johnson, Secretary, 6-8 meetings were held annually. Leading economists and educationists were among the members, e.g., Gordon Wood, D. B. Copland, L. F. Giblin, G. V. Brooks, C. E. Fletcher, E. Morris Miller, W. Clemes, E. E. Unwin, E. L. Piesse, H. T. Parker, L. Dechaineaux, etc., and many fine papers were read and discussed. The meetings continued without intermission until the close of 1936, when the section became an independent body, viz., The Tasmanian Institute for Educational Research.

*Biology Section.* Though a biology section is mentioned in the report for 1911, no record of its meetings or work is available.

## 6. PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SOCIETY AND OTHER PUBLICATIONS

The scientific work of the Society necessarily entails a review of the papers contributed and of other publications. The Society at first made use of the Tasmanian Journal and not until this ceased publication in 1849, were papers published directly by the Royal Society. An author catalogue of papers presented was compiled by Morton in 1855, and the papers and workers during the period 1843-1900 were reviewed by Morton (*loc. cit.*) and Maiden (*loc. cit.*). Since this was the main period of land exploration, settlement, and development, as well as of exploration of the flora and fauna of the colony, it naturally followed that these subjects engrossed the attention of the Society, and of 606 papers listed by Morton on 1901, Zoology numbered 181, Geology 132, and Botany 85, i.e., 66 per cent dealt with Natural Science.

*(a) Zoology*

In many instances, the zoological papers of the earlier period referred mainly to general macroscopic features and classification, thus leaving a wide field of detailed investigation for the workers of the present century. Governor Weld in the inaugural address 1876 stressed the need for observations on the comparative osteology of marsupials on which, apart from Owen's work, little had been written, and listed fishes, mollusca, crustacea, polyzoa and other phyla which at that date remained comparatively untouched by Tasmanian naturalists.

(i) In Vertebrate Zoology the chief sections dealt with since 1900 have been the following:—

'Tasmanian Vertebrates' and 'Tasmanian Mammals, Living and Extinct' have been the theme of numerous papers by (1) Clive Lord and (2) H. H. Scott.

'Tasmanian Fishes', especially the family Galaxiidae, has been the subject of research more recently of E. O. G. Scott.

'The Anatomy of Marsupials', studied by Owen, 1840-1850, was undertaken by T. T. Flynn (1911-1916) and, since 1935, by Joseph Pearson, whose work has also embraced (a) The Blood System, (b) Reproduction, and (c) Distribution and Colour Variation in Marsupials.

*Whales and Dolphins of Tasmania*, as well as papers on Heredity are other subjects dealt with by Pearson.

(ii) *Invertebrate Zoology*. In Tasmanian invertebrates a comparatively untouched field awaits investigation. The main contributions since 1900 have been:—

*Conchology*, which has been well covered by earlier workers, and in this century by W. L. May, who compiled a revised catalogue of marine and fluviatile shells, adding and describing new species (1908-1925).

*Arthropoda*. (a) Tasmanian Parastacidae have been described and classified by Ellen Clark (1935), Grapsid and Ocypodid crabs by Tweedie (1941), the previous worker on Freshwater Crustaceans having been Geof. W. Smith (1907). The embryology of Anaspides has been traced by V. V. Hickman, Respiratory Organs of Terrestrial Isopods by Unwin, and Tasmanian Caprellidae by Briggs. The Phreatoicoidea have been surveyed by G. E. Nicholls. Part I of his valuable monograph has been published in the Papers and Proceedings, 1942, and Part II appears in the present issue.

(b) In Arachnida, Dr. V. V. Hickman has won international repute as an arachnologist by the comprehensive and exhaustive studies in connection with Tasmanian Spiders, whilst earlier, T. T. Flynn revised Haswell's Australian Pycnogonida and described new forms (1918-1919).

(c) *Insecta*. The main orders studied have been Diptera (1) by G. H. Hardy and (a) A. White (1913-1920); whilst Lea has been the main worker on Coleoptera. A revised list and a description of new species of Tasmanian Lepidoptera have been issued by Jefferis Turner, and Tillyard's valuable researches on (1) Trout Food Insects of Tasmania and on (a) The Evolution of Insects have received wide recognition. V. V. Hickman added to our knowledge of Copeognatha (Psocoptera) by describing eight species, 'two of which were archaic forms of more than ordinary interest'. Tas. Sminthuridae (Globular Springtails) were described by Womersley (1931) and recently Plomley has contributed to the systematics of Mallophaga. The specialized work of J. W. Evans (1937-1941) on the taxonomy, morphology, and phylogeny of the Homoptera is of great value to students of entomology.

Mention should also be made of miscellaneous items of zoological interest, e.g., the first freshwater sponge recorded for Tasmania was collected in the Wynyard district by Professor T. T. Flynn, 1922, and proved identical with *Ephydatia multiformis* discovered by the German S.W. Aust. Expedition in Herdman's Lake, N.W. from Subiaco, W. Australia. From the same stream at Wynyard, Flynn also obtained a freshwater Hydrozoan, *Cordylophora*, which again constituted a new record for Tasmania, and in 1926, two hydromedusoids were recorded by him for the State, whilst in 1932, Hickman and E. O. Scott noted the occurrence of the freshwater polyzoan, *Plumatella repens* (van Beneden).

(b) Botany

Though the work of Tasmanian botanists of the previous century has been covered by Maiden (loc. cit.), but brief reference has been made to the collections acquired by the Society during that period, collections which not only possess a scientific value including as they do many type and co-type specimens, but which also are of rare historical interest. Among such may be listed:—

- (a) Specimens of Tasmanian flowering plants presented by J. Milligan in 1852 and in 1869 and rearranged and classified by W. Spicer in 1875.
- (b) Collection of Australian plants, presented by F. von Mueller in 1857.
- (c) Tasmanian Flowering Plants presented by Gunn and Hooker in 1861, included with which are a small number collected by Ross and Crozier in 1840.
- (d) Gunn's Herbarium, the result of 40 years collecting presented to the Society in 1876. This was sent to Sydney in 1904 when the offer of J. H. Maiden to arrange and clean it was accepted.

Between 1900 and 1932, two-thirds of the botanical papers contributed are by Leonard Rodway who during that period published (1) 'The Flora of Tasmania', (2) Tasmanian Ferns, (3) Tasmanian Bryophyta—Vol. I Mosses, Vol. II Hepatics, which included many papers read before the Society. The Mosses and Hepatics included, revised, and expanded the earlier work of Bastow and of Weymouth. Later, various new species of plants were recorded and papers on 'Tasmanian Fungi' by (a) Rodway and (b) Rodway and Cleland followed. This descriptive index of Tasmanian plants has been of immense advantage to students and provides an enduring monument to the most famous of Tasmanian botanists. In 1928, Rodway, ably assisted by Mrs. Rodway, became Keeper of the Tasmanian Museum Herbarium which had been newly established as the result of the visit of Sir Arthur Hill, Director of Kew Gardens.

From 1928-1932, the Herbarium was at the Botanical Gardens; 1932-1941, at the Tasmanian Museum where the available space became strained by the growing collections. In 1942, therefore, it was removed to its present home, at the Botanical Gardens when Miss W. M. Curtis was appointed Keeper.

In 1931 and also in 1935-36, the Royal Society assisted with the purchase of the Rodway Herbarium (Flora, Mosses, and Hepatics), thus enabling this valuable collection to be retained in the State. The generous gift to the Society by Mrs. Rodway, of the Rodway Botanical Library is proving most useful to students.

Rodway's papers dealt chiefly with systematics, and Maiden's descriptive revision of the Eucalypts has been followed in recent years by R. G. Brett who has undertaken a survey of Tasmanian Eucalypts and their affinities, whilst papers on 'Eucalypts of Tasmania and their Essential Oils' by Baker and Smith, appeared in 1912.

In 1937, the first cyto-genetic paper was contributed by A. L. McAulay and F. D. Cruickshank on the 'Male Meiotic Cycle in the genus *Eucalypts*' and McAulay has also studied the effect of mono-chromatic ultra-violet irradiation on the 'Production of Saltants of *Chaetomium globosum*'.

Ecology has received but scant attention, the first paper being read in 1928 when Dr. C. S. Sutton reviewed the vegetation of Cradle Mountain and in 1939, Martin surveyed the Mt. Wellington area.

These papers thus serve to emphasize how limited is our knowledge of Tasmanian flora in regard to the ecology, physiology, embryology, and genetics. One anatomical paper has been read, viz., 'The Stem Anatomy of the genus *Richea*' (Curtis, 1940).

### (c) *Geology*

The early workers, Milligan, Stephens, Johnston, Petterd, have been mentioned by Morton (loc. cit.) and the period 1902-1921 has been covered by Loftus Hills in a paper on 'The Progress of Geological Research in Tasmania' (Pap. & Proc. Roy. Soc. Tas., 1921). R. M. Johnston's contributions continued till 1918 and to him we owe the greater part of our knowledge of the stratigraphy of Tasmania, and, in particular, of the Permo-Carboniferous system. Petterd will be remembered for his work in mineralogy and his 'Catalogue of the Minerals of Tasmania' which, read before the Society, 1909, and published by the Mines Department, 1910, is still a standard work on the subject. His fine collection of minerals which was bequeathed to the Society in 1910 is on exhibition in the Tasmanian Museum. W. H. Twelvetrees, with whom much of Petterd's work was associated, was responsible for the initiation of systematic geological surveys of definite areas and this, combined with fine mineralogical and petrographical studies, greatly enriched the geological literature of Tasmania. His geological collection is now in the possession of the Launceston Museum. Keith Ward's chief contribution was a survey of the Pre-Cambrian rocks and West Coast areas. Later workers, who have thrown much light on the topography, tectonics and physiography of the island are Col. Legge, W. H. Clemes, A. N. Lewis, P. B. Nye, and A. B. Edwards. A. N. Lewis has given particular attention to the glacial topography of southern areas, e.g., Central Plateau, National Park, Mt. Anne, etc., as well as to a survey of the isotatic background of Tasmanian physiography. Valued contributions on the Permo-Carboniferous and Pleistocene glacial geology were received from Sir Edgeworth David, whilst Griffiths Taylor and Loftus Hills have added appreciably to our knowledge. Of considerable economic importance were the researches of McIntosh Reid on the Oil Shales of Tasmania (1926).

### (d) *Paleontology*

The chief worker in this field was R. M. Johnston, 1883-1918. From 1920 to 1936, H. H. Scott conducted investigations on the flora from the coal fields, other Trias-Jura and Tertiary areas and in 1924-25, Dr. A. B. Walkom studied and reviewed some Tasmanian Mesozoic plants.

Work in Pleistocene and recent deposits received considerable impetus when in 1910 in the Mowbray Swamp, near Smithton, extinct marsupial bones (*Nototherium tasmanicum*, Scott) were discovered for the first time in Tasmania. This was recorded by H. H. Scott and K. M. Harrisson. More important, however, was the subsequent discovery, also in the Mowbray Swamp, in 1920, of a perfect skull and an almost complete skeleton of *Nototherium mitchelli*. It should be

recorded that the Tasmanian Museum was presented with this splendid specimen through the interest of K. M. Harrisson who made the necessary arrangements with E. C. Lovell, on whose land both skeletons were discovered.

A revision of the genus and its osteology were then undertaken by Lord and Scott and the study and description of these remains have effected a notable advance in the knowledge of the genus.

The same area has since furnished numerous bones which still await investigation. Further important discoveries of extinct marsupial remains were (1) at King Island, and these were assigned by Scott to the genus *Palorchestes*, (2) from the caves at Mole Creek. The Mole Creek exhibits were presented before the Society by Lord, but no detailed investigation of the area followed.

A considerable amount of work was done by Miss M. Lodder on the Tertiary marine beds at Table Cape. A later investigator of these beds was Sir Edgeworth David and considerable interest was aroused by the discovery of a marsupial from this formation—*Wynyardia bassiana*, Spencer (P.Z.S., 1900), and the interest was maintained when Cetacean remains were obtained from these fossil cliffs. Twenty of the vertebrae are now in the Tasmanian Museum.

Recently A. N. Lewis has been responsible for important discoveries of Lower Ordovician fossils at Junee and Caroline Creek and a new trilobite area at Junee, 1938. In 1940, P. B. Nye reviewed the references to and listed the fossils of the Lower Tertiary marine rocks of the North West of Tasmania, i.e., the area west of Montagu and Balfour.

(e) *Natural Science*

In this section the most important work was that of Professor Alex McAulay whose 'Researches in Relativity' were deemed of such value that the Society instituted a special fund in order to publish the papers, 1925. 'Optical Gratings' and 'Radiation' were investigated by A. L. McAulay and a recent contributor, R. Cane, has conducted research on the properties and the nitrogen bases of Tasmanite Shale Oil.

(f) *Anthropology*

Comparatively little attention was paid to this subject during the period 1843-1900, the most notable contributions being from Milligan, J. B. Walker, and A. H. Clarke. Since 1910, however, the subject has aroused considerable interest and prominent workers have been R. W. Legge, Clive Lord, Noetling, A. L. Meston, W. L. Crowther, F. Wood-Jones, and F. Heyward. A. L. Meston's notable discoveries of aboriginal rock carvings at Devonport, 1931, and at Mount Cameron West, 1934, attracted considerable attention, not only in the State, but also on the mainland. N. B. Tindale, Ethnologist to the South Australian Museum, was invited by the Society in 1936, to visit Tasmania in order to report on the best procedure calculated to prevent deterioration of the carvings. Finally, Tindale in his report, recommended the removal to the Tasmanian Museum, for safe keeping, of seven large blocks and treatment *in situ* for the remainder. The Society thereupon approached the Government for financial assistance in order to implement Tindale's recommendations, but unfortunately funds were not available.

Osteological remains of Tasmanian aboriginals were discovered at Eaglehawk Neck, 1918, and also at Tasman Island and Cape Portland. Detailed descriptions of these have been given by Clive Lord and W. L. Crowther and recently all Tasmanian skulls have been reviewed by Wunderly.

*(g) History*

As mentioned under sectional activities, valuable work has been done in connection with Tasmanian history. J. B. Walker's papers were published under the auspices of the Society in 1901, as a memorial volume, 'Early Tasmania'. Clive Lord awakened an interest in Early Explorers of Tasmania, and other members have added to our knowledge of Bowen, Collins, Early Hobart, Whaling Days, Pioneer Shipping, and the (1) Arthur, (2) Franklin, (3) Denison periods; whilst R. W. Giblin's 'History of Tasmania' is a notable contribution to historical literature.

Increasing facilities for research, interchange between libraries, and the growing appreciation of the value of old documents have resulted in new light being thrown on many historical events. An example of this is the new angle given by Gilsemans' map (a copy of which the Society acquired in 1942) on the site of the first landing place of the Dutch in Tasmania in 1642.

## 7. GENERAL

Not only has the Society promoted scientific research but also any subject or project which was calculated to promote, either directly or indirectly, the welfare and progress of the community and of the State. From the beginning the Society has taken an active interest in inland and marine fisheries, as is evident from the numerous papers and the prominent part taken by Morton Allport, Sir James Agnew, and Alex Morton in the introduction of salmon and other trout into our inland waters. Finally, a Fisheries Board was established, and on this the Society was represented for many years.

The preservation of natural scenic reserves and the improvement of recreation grounds were subjects in which Governor Weld, warmly supported by the Society, displayed an active interest. The co-operation of the Council of the Royal Society and the active efforts of Russell Young, who introduced the bill in the House, resulted in securing for the people in 1876 the Mt. Wellington Reserve, which finally was vested in the Hobart City Council in 1906. The area thus obtained in 1876 comprised the higher levels and the Fern Tree locality, the City Council acquiring by purchase in later years the northerly and easterly slopes of the mountain. Again, the necessity for retaining Southport Caves as a scenic reserve was mooted by the Society in 1893, whilst in 1918, the Society played a prominent part in obtaining the National Reserve at Russell Falls. The management of the latter area was vested in the National Park Board on which the Society is still represented. Similarly the Northern Branch of the Society sponsored the proposal to reserve the Cradle Mountain-Lake St. Clair region. The reserve was proclaimed in 1922, and members of the Society have been prominent on the Board ever since.

In 1874, the neglected state of the Queen's Domain was discussed by members and proposals in reference to improvement were submitted to the Government by the Council of the Society, with the result that, on receipt of a small grant from the Government, the Society undertook the responsibility of maintenance and beautification. Drives were laid out, avenues of firs, araucarias, etc., planted, and, as far as funds permitted, attractive recreation grounds developed. Reports from the Domain Improvements Committee appear in the records of the Society for some years, regularly until 1889, when the Queen's Domain Committee Act was passed, and occasionally till 1917, when the Queen's Domain Act vested the reserve in the Mayor and Aldermen of the City of Hobart.

Similarly the preservation of the flora and fauna of the State was constantly stressed by the Council throughout the years until 1928, when the Fauna Board, on which the Society is represented, was established.

The desirability and urgent need of a Biology Department in the University of Tasmania was first discussed by the Royal Society in 1892, following a paper by J. R. McClymont, and, again in 1902, the proposal to establish at the University a practical school of Astronomy awakened considerable interest when the Council devoted much thought to the implementation of the proposal and the possibility of thus securing for Tasmania the benefit of the Leake bequest of £10,000.

It is also of interest at the present time to note that as early as 1919, the Royal Society suggested to the Government that steps should be taken immediately in order to prevent the blackbird becoming a serious pest to fruitgrowers.

The preparation of a union catalogue of the periodicals in the libraries in Tasmania was undertaken by the Council in 1914, and later the Chief Secretary arranged for the necessary funds to cover the cost of printing.

#### PUBLICATIONS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY

In a previous section reference has been made to scientific contributions by members to the *Tasmanian Journal*, whilst the Royal Society during that period published only annual reports, the 1844 report being published in 1845. Vol. I, Part I, of the *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Van Diemen's Land* was published in May, 1849, and a second publication was the *Annual Report*, but in 1850, original papers and reports of meetings were combined. A complete set of the Society's publications from 1845-1909 were placed in the Library in the latter year, 'probably the only complete set of the publications of the Royal Society of Tasmania'. The volumes were bound in their original covers and two complete sets of annual reports 1845-1892 were also bound. A complete list of publications (*Papers and Proceedings, Reports, Pamphlets, and Books*) is listed in *Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1913*, and to this a supplement was added in 1920. Publication of (1) *Reports*, or (2) *Papers and Reports* have been made without intermission, 1845-1943.

The Council in 1913 were anxious to improve the format but funds available only permitted a better quality of paper. The financial position was again a source of concern in 1922, when accordingly the size was reduced. The format of the 1934 issue was improved, and again enlarged in 1939.

The annual publication of the *Papers and Proceedings* has constituted a serious strain on the financial resources of the Society, and, for many years, the Government has generously assisted, a concession greatly appreciated by the Council.

## OFFICERS OF THE ROYAL SOCIETY, 1843 AND 1943

1843	1943
<i>President</i>	<i>President</i>
Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot, Lieutenant-Governor of V.D.L.	Sir Ernest Clark, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.B.E., Governor of Tasmania
<i>Vice-Presidents</i>	<i>Vice-Presidents</i>
Sir J. L. Pedder J. E. Bicheno Rev. John Lillie Captain C. Swanston	A. L. Meston W. L. Crowther
<i>Members of the Council</i>	<i>Members of the Council</i>
J. Hone Joseph Allport W. T. N. Champ Major Cotton G. T. Boyes P. Fraser J. Burnett, Senr. E. P. Butler	H. Allport V. V. Hickman N. P. Booth H. D. Gordon W. H. Clemes L. Cerutti
<i>Treasurer</i>	<i>Treasurer</i>
Captain Swanston	S. Angel
<i>Secretary</i>	<i>Secretary</i>
W. T. N. Champ	Joseph Pearson

*Presidents*

The Governor of the State is also the President of the Society and during the century the successive presidents have done much to inspire, maintain, and expand the interests and activities of the Society. To the stimulating influence of Sir George Arthur and of Sir John Franklin, to Sir J. Eardley-Wilmot, the founder of the Society, and to Sir William Denison<sup>(1)</sup> who re-organized and united the separate institutions<sup>(2)</sup> the Society is greatly indebted, whilst the scientific interests of some of the later Presidents, e.g., Sir T. H. Lefroy, Sir F. A. Weld, Sir Robert Hamilton, and others contributed largely to its welfare and progress. It is, perhaps, no exaggeration to say that no President has shown a keener interest in the welfare of the Society than our present Governor, Sir Ernest Clark.

<sup>(1)</sup> Later in 1856, he performed a similar service for the Royal Society of New South Wales. Piesse, 1913, p. 118.

<sup>(2)</sup> Tasmanian Society and the Royal Society. The active members of the former joined the Royal Society 1848-49, being actuated to some degree by the cessation of funds from the Franklin estate.

(a) Captain H. Butler Stoney 'A Year in Tasmania, 1854'.

(b) Launceston Examiner, 18th August, 1849.

*Secretaries of the Royal Society—*

- Wm. Thos. Napier Champ, Secretary, 1843-1844  
 John Abbott, Hon. Secretary, 1844  
 George Fordyce Story, Secretary, 1844-1845  
 John Lillie, Hon. Secretary, 1845-1848  
 Joseph Milligan, Secretary, 1848-1860  
 William Archer, Secretary, 1860-1861  
 Jas. Wilson Agnew, Hon. Secretary, 1861-1881; 1884-1891  
 James Barnard, Hon. Secretary, 1881-1884  
 Alex Morton, Assistant Secretary, 1886; Secretary, 1887-1907  
 Robert Hall, Secretary to the Council, 1908-1913  
 Fritz Noetling, Hon. Secretary, 1910-1911  
 E. L. Piesse, Acting Hon. Secretary, 1913; Hon. Secretary, 1914  
 J. L. Glasson, Hon. Secretary, 1915-1917  
 Clive E. Lord, Assistant Secretary, 1917; Secretary, 1918-1933  
 E. T. Emmett, Acting Secretary, 1931  
 Jean Beattie, Acting Secretary, 1933-1934  
 Joseph Pearson, Secretary, 1934-  
 J. W. Evans, Acting Secretary, 1938 (part)

The original rules provided that the Secretary 'shall possess a scientific knowledge of the leading branches of Natural History' and to this policy the Society has adhered when making an appointment.

Joseph Milligan, 1848-1860, continued his interest in the Society, even when he returned to England, as is instanced by his letters and gifts. He also bequeathed to the Society the sum of £350 and two blocks of land, viz., (*a*) three allotments of 1 acre each at Bicheno and (*b*) one town allotment of 3 acres at George Town. The land is still in the possession of the Society.

Alexander Morton (1885-1907) for twenty-two years guided the interests of the Society and is remembered for his wide interests and faithful devotion to the Society and to the Museum, of which he was Curator. Not only did he contribute papers on a variety of subjects, but he also greatly enriched the Society by means of collections which were obtained through his zeal. A mural tablet placed in the Museum records appreciation of his services as Secretary to the Royal Society and as Curator of the Museum. It is worth noting that he also was in charge of the Museum and Art Gallery in Launceston when it was first founded in 1891 and it was 'to be developed on precisely similar lines to those adopted' in the Tasmanian Museum.

Clive E. Lord, Secretary and Librarian, 1918-1933, will always be an honoured name in the annals of the Society. To his energy and enthusiasm must be assigned in no small measure the credit of expanding and maintaining the activities of the Society, whilst his versatility may be judged by the number and range of the papers which he contributed. He received the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal, 1930.

*Members*

The number of original members nominated by Sir J. Eardley-Wilmot, 14th October, 1843, was 50, including the President. The following list indicates the fluctuations in numbers during the century:—

1843	50	1904	67
1851	275	1913	157
1854	342	1930	266
1863	100	1939	255
1885	176	1942	228

On the Society's roll of Honorary Members occur the names of such distinguished scientists as Sir Edgeworth David, Sir Douglas Mawson, Sir Ernest Shackleton, Sir W. Baldwin Spencer, Professor E. Wood-Jones, Dr. R. J. Tillyard, and in earlier years Dr. Milligan, Sir Joseph Hooker, John Gould, Count Strzelecki, Professor Owen.

Corresponding members have included—

Sir W. A. Bragg, F.R.S., Professor of Physics (London).

Sir W. B. Benham, M.A., D.Sc., F.R.S.

R. W. Chapman, Professor of Mathematics, University of Adelaide.

A. Dendy, F.R.S., Professor of Zoology, King's College, London.

W. Haswell, F.R.S., Professor of Biology, University of Sydney.

A. Wall, Professor of English Literature, Christchurch, New Zealand.

Though the rules permitted the election of ladies, no names are recorded before 1862. In that year, Mrs. Joseph Allport and Mrs. Morton Allport were elected.

On the Society's present roll is the name of Dr. A. H. Clarke, who has an unbroken record since his election in 1896. For many years he was Chairman of the Council and a member of the Tasmanian Museum Board of Trustees. An even longer record has been achieved by H. D. Foster, a member since 1890.

## SUBSCRIPTIONS AND FUNDS

Originally there was an annual subscription of £1, with an entrance fee of £2, and it was to this entrance fee that objections were raised by some members of the Tasmanian Society. The entrance fee was abolished in 1845, but in 1853, in order to make the necessary grant to the Northern Branch, the yearly subscription was increased from £1 to £1 10s. and not until 1912 was it reduced to £1 1s. The Government grant ceased in 1885 and, though assistance has been given by successive Governments towards publication of Papers and Proceedings, the Society since the 1885 Act has been dependent entirely on subscriptions for the maintenance and expansion of the Library and other vital expenditure. The sum £350 (£100 of which was held in trust for the Museum) was received as a legacy from Dr. Milligan. This, however, was not invested, but was placed in the general fund. The Society may well be proud that so much has been accomplished despite the restricted financial resources. Various funds raised by special subscriptions are held in trust and administered by the Society, whilst gifts and bequests of books, pictures, and historical documents too numerous to list have been received.

## MEMORIAL FUNDS AND MEDALS

*Morton Allport Memorial Fund (1879)*

The sum of £200 was raised by special subscription as a memorial to Morton Allport, a generous donor of collections to the Museum and a contributor of numerous papers, who also took an active interest in the introduction of salmon and other trout. The income accruing from the Memorial Fund is applied to the purchase of scientific books.

*R. M. Johnston Memorial Fund (1920)*

The sum of £230 was subscribed as a memorial to R. M. Johnston, Government Statistician, a member of the Society from 1883 till his death in 1918, and a Member of the Council and Vice-President for many years. During that time he contributed 103 papers, the subjects embracing statistics, geology, botany, zoology, and palaeontology. He will be remembered not only by students of social and economic science, but also by those interested in Tasmanian geology.

The Memorial Fund provides for (1) Lecture, (2) Medal to be presented to the lecturer, and (3) Purchase of books.

Medals presented—

1920. Sir David Rivett, K.C.M.G., M.A., D.Sc.

## ADDENDUM

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS, ROYAL SOCIETY OF TASMANIA, 1943, P. 220.

*To the list of R. M. Johnston Memorial Medals, add:—*

1937. Sir David Rivett, K.C.M.G., M.A., D.Sc.

*Clive Lord Memorial Fund (1934)*

The fund of £200 was raised by special subscription as a memorial to Clive E. Lord, Secretary and Librarian of the Society and Director of the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, 1918-1933.

The fund provides for (1) A Memorial Lecture and a Medal and (2) A Prize. The lecture shall deal with some aspect of Tasmanian History or Tasmanian Natural Science.

Medals presented—

1936. Professor L. F. Giblin, D.S.O., M.C., M.A., Ritchie Professor of Economics (Melb.).

1939. Professor J. B. Cleland, M.D.

*Clive Lord Memorial Prize*

Awards—

1939. R. J. Linford.

A bronze memorial mural tablet was also erected in the Museum.

*Rodway Memorial Fund (1936)*

The fund was raised by subscription as a memorial to Leonard Rodway, and was expended as follows:—

1. Florence Rodway was commissioned to paint a portrait of her father. This painting hangs in the Art Gallery.
2. The balance was applied to the purchase of botanical books for the Library.

*J. W. Beattie Memorial Fund (1937)*

The memorial was established in recognition of the outstanding work of J. W. Beattie in connection with historical relics and documents. The fund has been applied to the purchase of modern books on Australian history, geography, and anthropology.

*Royal Society of Tasmania Medal*

An addition to the Rules in 1927 provided for the establishment of the Royal Society of Tasmania Medal to be awarded 'for pre-eminence in research in any of the branches of knowledge coming within the purview for the time being of the Society.

## Awards—

- 1928. Leonard Rodway, C.M.G.
- 1930. Clive E. Lord, F.L.S.
- 1934. H. H. Scott, Curator, Queen Victoria Museum and Art Gallery.
- 1935. A. N. Lewis, M.C., LL.D.
- 1940. W. L. Crowther, D.S.O., M.B.  
V. V. Hickman, D.Sc., B.A., C.M.Z.S.

Brief as this review must necessarily be, it yet serves to indicate the progress and development of the Society and the contributions to science and to the community made by its members throughout the century which has elapsed since 14th October, 1843. In the years that lie ahead, the Society, therefore, may confidently expect that not only will its traditions be maintained, but that its influence in the community and its contributions to the advancement of knowledge, and particularly to science, will increase in value and importance.

PLATE VII

1. Sir J. E. Eardley-Wilmot, Lt.-Governor of Van Diemen's Land. Founder and First President of the Royal Society of Tasmania.
  
2. Sir Ernest Clark, G.C.M.G., K.C.B., C.B.E. Governor of Tasmania. President of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1933-
  
3. Centenary Medal.  
Awards—  
1943. Eric Ashby, D.Sc., D.I.C., Professor of Botany, University of Sydney.  
George Mackaness, O.B.E., M.A., Litt.D.







PLATE VIII

Council of the Royal Society of Tasmania, 1943.

Sitting (l. to r.) :—J. Pearson (Hon. Secretary), W. L. Crowther (Vice-President), H.E. Sir Ernest Clark (President), A. L. Meston (Vice-President), S. Angel (Treasurer).

Standing (l. to r.) :—H. D. Gordon, N. P. Booth, H. Allport, L. Cerutti, V. V. Hickman, W. H. Clemes.

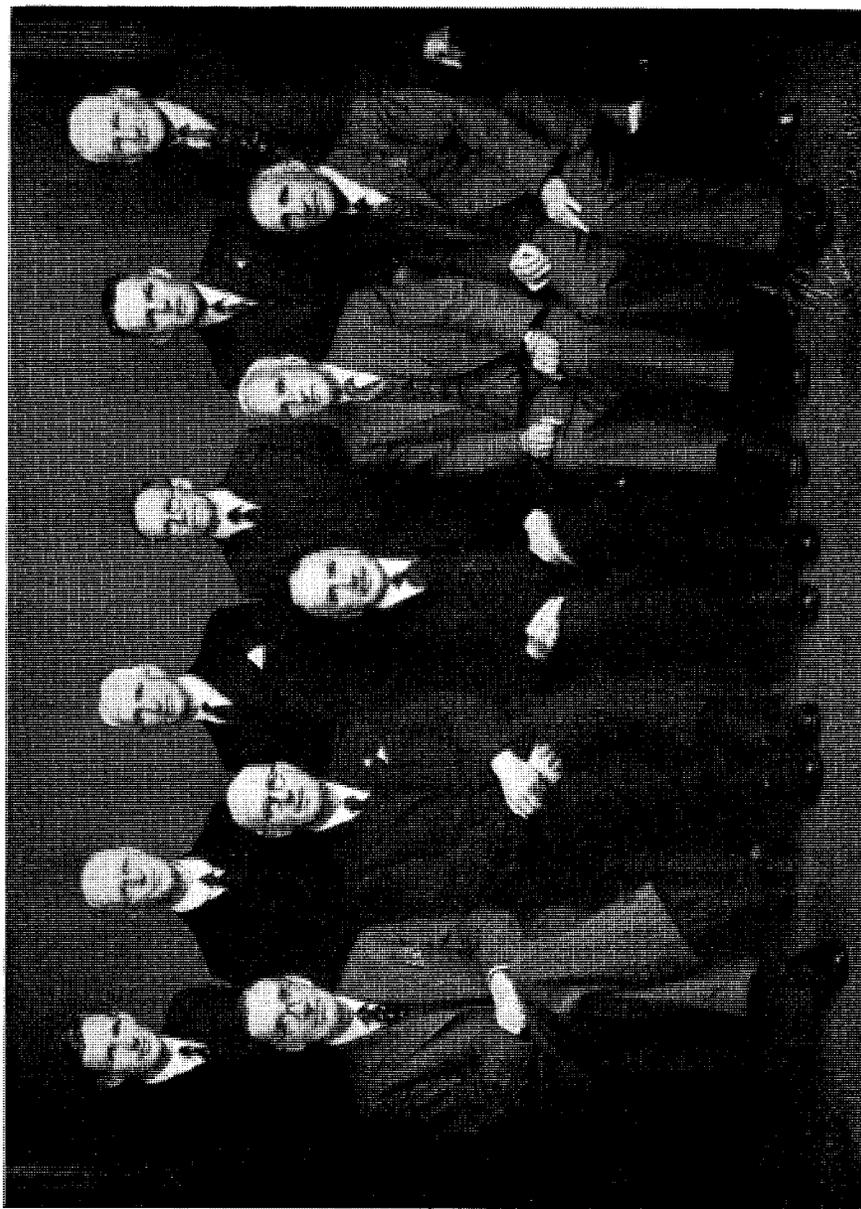


PLATE IX

1. Royal Society Library, 1900-1930.
2. Royal Society Library, 1943.

