# ABSTRACT OF PROCEEDINGS
## 1917.

27th March, 1917.

*Annual Meeting.*

The Annual General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m. Mr. R. M. Johnston, senior vice-president, occupied the chair.

In opening the meeting, Mr. Johnston said:— "Before I call on the Secretary to read the Annual Report of the Council for the past year, I propose to take this opportunity of discharging a very pleasant duty, which falls upon me as Chairman of this Annual General Meeting. I have been asked to express on behalf of this Society, of which Mr. Leonard Rodway is one of the most distinguished members, the gratification with which it received the announcement that his splendid contributions to Australian science have been recognised by His Majesty the King, who has been graciously pleased to create Mr. Rodway a Companion of the Distinguished Order of St. Michael and St. George. I am sure we are all most heartily pleased that Mr. Rodway has received this proud distinction, for we all know how justly it is deserved. Since the days of Mr. Ronald Gunn, F.R.S., who was Tasmania's most distinguished pioneer in the field of botanical science, there has been no local worker who has laboured more indefatigably, and certainly no other one who has accomplished such splendid results in the work of systematic investigation, and in the development of our knowledge of the whole range of plant life in Tasmania. How varied and wide this range is may be roughly appreciated by a glance at the titles of the thirty papers which are the contributions of Mr. Rodway to the Papers and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Tasmania between the years 1892 and 1916. These papers include his systematic descriptive catalogue of all known species of Tasmanian Bryophyta (mosses and hepatics), which, when published in a complete form, will be a fitting complement to his splendid work on "The Flora of Tasmania," published in 1903 by the Government of Tasmania. Not only these works, but also his gratuitous services to Tasmanian Forestry, afford evidence of the invaluable services rendered by him to the country of his adoption during the last quarter of a century. Mr. Rodway, I offer you, on

behalf of the Society, its most grateful thanks for the splendid work you have done for it, and its warmest congratulations on the distinguished honour that His Majesty has been pleased to confer upon you."

Mr. Rodway thanked the Chairman for his congratulations.

The Annual Reports were then read, viz.:—Annual Report of Council by the Secretary, Balance-sheet by the Treasurer, Report of Education Section by Mr. Dechaineux, and Report of History Section by Mr. Johnson.

Dr. Clarke moved the adoption of the reports and balance-sheet.

Mr. J. A. Johnson seconded. Carried.

No more than the required number having been nominated for membership of the Council, the Chairman declared the following duly elected:—Dr. A. H. Clarke, Mr. L. Rodway, C.M.G., Mr. J. A. Johnson, M.A., Mr. L. Dechaineux, Mr. L. H. Lindon, M.A., Dr. J. L. Glasson, Professor T. T. Flynn, B.Sc., Mr. W. H. Clemes, B.A., B.Sc., Mr. Clive E. Lord.

Mr. R. A. Black was appointed Auditor for the year.

The following having been duly nominated for membership of the Society were balloted for, and declared elected:—Mr. I. N. Raamsdonk, Mr. C. H. Slaytor, F.I.C., Mr. N. Oldham.

Dr. J. L. Glasson moved that the names of members of the Society on active service be retained on the list of members until their return to Tasmania, and that their subscriptions be suspended for that period. Sir Elliott Lewis seconded. Carried.

*Lecture.*

Mr. J. W. Beattie exhibited a series of lantern views of the National Park, and made several suggestions as to nomenclature of various features.

Mr. L. Rodway, Professor Flynn, and Hon. Henry Dobson took part in the discussion which followed.

The Chairman thanked Mr. Beattie, on behalf of the Society, for his lecture.

12TH APRIL, 1917.

The Monthly General Meeting was held at the Museum at 8 p.m. Sir Herbert Nicholls presided.

*Lecture.*

Mr. Chas. Hedley, of the Australian Museum, Sydney, delivered a lecture on "The Depths of the Ocean."

14TH MAY, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Lecture.*

Mr. L. Rodway delivered a lecture on "Forestry in Tasmania."

11TH JUNE, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Education After the War.*

The evening took the form of a symposium on this subject, arranged by Mr. Dechaineux.

Mr. J. A. Johnson introduced the subject from the primary school aspect. He stressed the necessity of an education at that stage that would lead to the development of bodily function as the eye and the hand, and of mental function, reliance, judgment, and reasoning. Success in industrial development will depend on the brains of those directing the work, and the adaptability of the workers. The minds of all must be open to new ideas, and the new ideas must come from the research departments of the Technical Schools and University. It is the function of the primary school to develop the individual powers without consideration of what the boy may be in after life. The human value of the worker must be set first: he is trained to see better, to do better, to judge and reason better. The foundation of such education is rooted in the nature of the educand himself: the educator, while leaving the personality intact, must inoculate it with thoughts, feelings, and desires it would never otherwise have obtained. This idea, centuries old, is only now being put into practice, for there is often a very wide gap between theory in education and its application in practice. What we want to aim at in industrial life is efficiency; but we seek to make that efficiency personal through the universal functioning of self-activity. Self-activity is the very elemental law of human development, and is therefore at the base of all industry. The problem for the primary teacher is how to translate this theory of development into the actual life of the school. The pupil's initiative must be developed *pari passu* with his intelligence, so that he learns not only to think but to plan and to purpose. Thus only can be brought about the desired correspondence between school attainment and subsequent skill at work.

Mr. S. C. Smith dealt with Secondary Education, making particular reference to the Australian Naval College, Jervis Bay.

Mr. L. Dechaineux, in dealing with Technical Education, said, *inter alia* :—

If we are to have a lasting peace Germany and her allies will have to take a place again in the community of nations; neither in international politics, science, nor industry can they be ostracised. Germany and Austria can produce better and cheaper goods; there is nothing too vast for its organisation or too minute for its attention, and if necessary the whole country can work with skill, knowledge, and frugality to re-establish its economic supremacy, under conditions of hours of labour and pay not to be compared with the Australian scale of living. A country which, like Australia, depends for its welfare upon the exportation of its raw material will always be liable to subjection; the measure of leadership of a country is not its size, or its population, or the wealth and nature of its raw productions, but its industrial strength and the swiftness with which it can adapt itself to new industrial conditions. With a high standard of living, a short working day, a political policy which does not foster industrial efficiency, great natural resources, and a low output industrially Australia has much to make up. On the other side of the ledger may be put our greater vitality, initiative, independence, and the fact that after the war the conditions in Europe will tend towards shorter hours of labour and higher pay. Australian working conditions will tend to create very large industries, scientifically managed and organised; with a very large output, where all waste will need to be eliminated to maintain the existing hours of labour and pay, and yet compete in the markets of the world. In other words, the greatest administrative and technical ability will be required. With that in view the whole question of apprenticeships must be reopened. The system presses adversely on masters and boys. "Why should a boy be bound to serve at a trade for which he finds he has no natural aptitude?" Why should he be bound for five years, say, if he can master the technicalities of his craft in three? What guarantee has a boy that he will be given a full workshop training? What guarantee has the master that he will get an efficient and intelligent workman? What guarantee can the master have, or give, that the man is worth his money, and if he is not where will he drift to? These are questions which have not received the attention

they must have. When they have pressed on master or on man the cry has been "Technical Education"; but Technical Education alone, any more than workshop practice alone, cannot solve these deep and urgent problems. Government, employer, educationist, scientist, workman must work out the details of a scheme which shall assist the production of efficient workmen, select those fitted by natural capacity for more responsible work and higher training, and see that they get it, and prevent at all cost the drift downwards.

Dr. J. L. Glasson, in dealing with University Education, stressed the dual nature of the function of a University—teaching and research. The latter was too often overlooked, and even where its importance was realised scientific workers were often insufficiently alive to the necessity of utilising their discoveries by co-operation with manufacturers. In the other branch of University work, viz., teaching, the particular needs of the University of Tasmania were outlined.

In the discussion which followed Messrs. Rodway, Dennis Butler, and Lindon took part.

9TH JULY, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Lecture.*

Mr. J. R. Pound, M.Sc., delivered a lecture on "The Electromagnetic Separation of Minerals."

13TH AUGUST, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Papers.*

"Notes on Tasmanian Diptera and Description of New Species." By G. H. Hardy

"Notes on Tasmanian Butterflies." By G. H. Hardy.

"Tasmanian Cicadidæ." By G. H. Hardy.

*Lecture.*

Professor T. Thomson Flynn delivered a lecture on "The Fishery Resources of Tasmania."

10TH SEPTEMBER, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m. His Excellency, Sir Francis Newdegate, presided. Dr. A. H. Clarke welcomed His Excellency to the State and to the Presidency of the Society.

*Election of Members.*

The following members having been duly nominated and balloted for were declared elected:—Dr. E. Brettingham-Moore, Rev. John Cullen, D. B. Copland, Esq., M.A.

*Lecture.*

Mr. J. H. Butters, Chief Engineer and General Manager Hydro-Electric Department, delivered an illustrated lecture on "Hydro-Electricity in Tasmania."

*Papers.*

"New Australian Asilidæ." By Arthur White.

8TH OCTOBER, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Papers.*

"Tasmanian Eucalypts." By L. Rodway, C.M.G.

*Lecture.*

Mr. L. Rodway delivered a lecture on "Plant Pathology."

12TH NOVEMBER, 1917.

The Society met at the Museum at 8 p.m.

*Lecture.*

Mr. D. B. Copland, M.A., delivered an illustrated lecture on "The Distribution of Wealth."