

A history of the Queensland Philosophical Society and the Royal Society of Queensland from 1859 to 1911. Proc. R. Soc. Qd. 71:17-42.

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PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS

A HISTORY OF
THE QUEENSLAND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY
AND THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND
FROM 1859 TO 1911

(With Two Plates)

By ELIZABETH N. MARKS, Department of Entomology, University of
Queensland

(Delivered before the Royal Society of Queensland, 23rd March, 1959)

It is a considerable honour to be president of Queensland's oldest scientific institution in its one hundredth year, and one I have appreciated not least for the opportunity of choosing its early history as the subject of this address. I wish to express my sincere thanks to the large number of people who have helped me in its preparation, and also to pay a tribute to the many secretaries of the past for their detailed minutes, which facilitated my task.

Our Society has from its inception consisted of a group of people of very diverse interests brought together by one common interest in the progress of science. I have tried to give a composite of three aspects of its history—public activities, domestic life, and a few (too few) of its outstanding personalities, its great scientists, and its faithful friends.

Its first century divides naturally into two periods before and since the establishment of the University of Queensland. The significance of this event to the Society needs no elaboration, and it has met on University premises since 1912. My history* deals only with the earlier period up to 1911, except that records of individual members are carried through to completion. The Society is proud and happy to have still two members from this period, F. Bennett and E. O. Marks.

The history prior to 1911 falls into two chapters, the Queensland Philosophical Society 1859-1883, and the Royal Society of Queensland 1883-1911. The original minute books are preserved from 1868 to the present, except for 1897-1903, and my account is based primarily on perusal of these.

I. THE QUEENSLAND PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY 1859-1883

The population of Brisbane in 1859 was about 6000. There was one newspaper, the *Moreton Bay Courier*. The School of Arts provided a library, a centre of political discussion, and a hall for public meetings.

*The address as delivered included a brief account of the period 1912-1959 and was entitled "*The Society's First Hundred Years*".

Water supply was from ponds near Roma Street and sanitation was mainly by cesspools. I mention this because drainage, water supply, health, sanitation, and building design were recurring topics in the early days of the Society.

The inaugural meeting was held on 1st March, 1859. Beyond the date, no details of it have been found, though there are statements that Dr. Barton together with two or three others were the founders of the Society, that Mr. Coxen was one of the founders, and that Rev. George Wight was one of the original members. It seems unlikely that the Society assumed its title until after the Colony of Queensland had been proclaimed in London on 6th June, 1859. This is indicated by the fact that in a book entitled "Queensland Philosophical Society—Members Book", which records the date the member signed his enrolment, the first five names are entered under the date 5th July, 1859. The weight of evidence indicates that the usual title was "Queensland Philosophical Society", although it is given as "Philosophical Society of Queensland" on the title page of the bound volumes of the *Transactions*, and on an undated book of bye-laws. The main object of the Society was "The discussion of scientific subjects, with special reference to the natural history, soil, climate and agriculture of the colony of Queensland".

The Society grew slowly and for three and a half years functioned under a chairman. However it was far from inactive and there are records of twenty papers contributed by thirteen members up to 4th November, 1862. The subjects included zoology, geology, climatology, agriculture, building construction, sanitation, and health. These meetings were held in the Committee rooms of the Brisbane Hospital, on the site of the present Supreme Court Building. It is interesting to see the varied personalities and backgrounds of some of these earliest members who had the enthusiasm, courage and vision to found this Society in such a small community. The first five in the Members Book appear in the following order:

REV. GEORGE WIGHT, from Portobello, Scotland, was sent by the London Colonial Missionary Society to Brisbane to establish a church on Congregational principles and held his first service here in May 1858. He records that there seemed room and need for a new journal of fearless independent principles, and with W. C. Belbridge he founded the *Queensland Guardian* in May 1860. Wight's interest in both this paper and the Philosophical Society was of tremendous importance to the latter. The first report in 1862 states that the Society felt that the papers contributed should not be confined within its own limits, and in order that the Colony at large might participate in the benefits, the Council had entered into an arrangement with the proprietors of the *Queensland Guardian* for printing their papers at length in its columns, and supplying the Society with forty copies of each paper in pamphlet form. This arrangement apparently continued until 1867 and covers most of the papers in Volume I of the *Transactions*. What this meant to the Society may be judged by later financial difficulties over publication. Wight frequently attended meetings up to 1871 and was a councillor 1866-71. He was interested in geology and, of the three papers he

presented, one in 1867 "On the Appointment of a Government Geologist for Queensland" urged that a government geologist and at least one scientific assistant be appointed.

DR. FREDERICK JAMES BARTON had become resident surgeon at the Brisbane Hospital in 1851; he also held an official government appointment as Meteorological Observer, a post discontinued after his death in 1863. He was chairman of the Society in 1859 and appears to have delivered its first lecture "On Asphyxia", the object of which was to publicise Hall's method of artificial respiration, for the local death rate from drowning was high. When the Society elected its first officers in 1862, he became a member of council and secretary. Doubtless it was through his interest that the Society was able to meet at the hospital. The Annual Report for 1863 records that "his patience and solicitude in everything connected with its (the Society's) welfare demand special recognition at our hands" and refers to his "unwearied diligence and scientific accuracy" in the preparation of meteorological reports. The Hospital Committee reported that "In him the sick have lost a skilful practitioner and the poor a friend".

SILVESTER DIGGLES, born in Liverpool in 1817, came to Brisbane in 1854 where he taught drawing and music. From various accounts one sees him as a modest, enthusiastic, genial field naturalist. His main interests were ornithology and entomology, on which he gave numerous papers and exhibits to the Society. He attended meetings very regularly up to 1876, frequently taking the chair, and was proposed as an Honorary Member in 1880, but died before elected. He was a councillor 1863-66 and 1868, and curator 1869-77. His life work was the production of an illustrated "Ornithology of Australia", to which the Society was a subscriber, but through lack of finance he was able only to publish one third of the parts. In a paper to the Society in 1871 "On Introduction of Insects" he advocated such insects being introduced which "in their larva state fed upon (foreign) plants."

WALTER HILL, born in Scotland in 1820 and trained as a gardener, came to Brisbane as Superintendent of the Botanic Gardens in 1855 and was appointed Colonial Botanist in 1859. He gave a paper on "Landscape Designing" in 1860, but after that seems to have dropped out of the Society.

CHARLES TIFFIN came to Brisbane in 1858 as Clerk of Works for the Moreton District and was appointed Colonial Architect for Queensland in 1860, the title of his office being changed in 1869 to Superintendent of Roads and Buildings. He was responsible for the building of the Ipswich Court House in 1859, and for the new Brisbane Hospital in 1866 (the old two-storey building in the present hospital grounds). He gave three papers to the Society, one in 1866 being "On the Use of Earth Closets as a means of Preventing the Vitiating of the Air." These were a comparatively recent invention and Tiffin himself had invented a self-earthing one which was on trial at the hospital. He was a member up to his death in 1872, a councillor 1864-65, and presented "a valuable microscope" to the Society's museum.

The following three members' names were entered in February 1860:

CHARLES COXEN, born in Ramsgate, England, in 1809, was a brother-in-law of John Gould, the ornithologist, with and for whom he had collected and prepared specimens. He was one of the pioneer squatters on the Darling Downs in the 1840's, settling at "Jondaryan" where he was known for his sympathetic and trusting treatment of the blacks. He came to live in Brisbane in 1861, was member of Parliament for the North Downs 1860-67, became a Crown Lands Commissioner in 1868, and died in 1876.

Coxen is known as the principal founder of the Queensland Museum in 1855 (Mack, 1956). He was chairman of the Society 1861-62, vice-president 1863-75, and attended meetings fairly regularly. He was widely respected and liked, evidently had a certain charm of manner, and was a valuable spokesman for the Society in dealings with the Government. His enthusiasm and leadership are reflected in the Society's role in developing the Museum. Of the few papers he gave, one in 1864 on "Habits of the Regent Bird" contains the first description of its bower. He exhibited a case showing birds and the bower which Mr. Waller had discovered on the banks of the Brisbane River (at Eagle Farm according to Diggles). His understanding and compassion for the blacks show in a paper on "The Komillaroy Tribe". A paper "On the Geology of Western Queensland" attributed to Coxen was, as is clear from the Annual Report for 1864, communicated by him for J. K. Wilson of Fitzroy Downs.

WILLIAM BROOKES, born in Manchester in 1825, came to Brisbane in 1853 as accountant-ledger keeper to the new branch of the Union Bank and in 1858 bought an ironmongery business and started the firm of W. & B. Brookes. A man of high principles and a forthright speaker, he was chairman of the Society in 1860. He gave two papers on the subject of "Cotton and Queensland", but disappears from the records after 1862, though a prominent citizen for many years.

REV. ROBERT CREYKE, B.A. (Cantab.), held the government appointment of Deputy Registrar General and was also attached to St. John's Church of England. He was elected to the first council in 1862 and was an auditor 1862-66. In a paper in 1861 on "Public Health in Brisbane", he acknowledges that much of it was furnished by Dr. Barton, and notes that "more than $\frac{2}{3}$ of those born have died before they were 5 years old" and refers to "persons from the south, allured here by the mildness of our winter".

In December 1862, when there were 29 members, a report on the Society's progress since its foundation was read by Rev. Bliss and the first office-bearers were elected. They were: President, His Excellency Sir George Bowen, G.C.M.G.; Vice-president, C. Coxen; Council, H. Rawnsley, Rev. R. Creyke, Rev. J. Bliss, Dr. Barton, S. Diggles; Treasurer, Alexander Raff; Auditors, Rev. R. Creyke, E. MacDonnell; Secretary, Dr. Barton.

H. C. RAWNSLEY was Surveyor in the Crown Lands Department and an ornithologist, joined 1860, councillor until 1866. REV. JOHN BLISS, M.A., of St. John's Church of England, joined 1861, secretary 1864-67. ALEXANDER RAFF, Official Assignee and Curator of Intestate Estates, joined 1860, was treasurer until 1872 and a member till his death in 1913. E. MACDONNELL was manager of Flavelle Bros., Queen Street jewellers.

SIR GEORGE BOWEN, the first Governor of the Colony, was a scholar who had been President of the University of Corfu. When he came to Queensland at the end of 1859 he saw himself not only as head of the State but as leader of the people in the endeavour to build up their society. It is quite in character that he accepted office as president to give the Society a good start. His interest in its welfare led him in June 1863 to write pointing out the benefit to the Society to have for its president a gentleman permanently resident in the Colony with leisure to devote to its interest, and offering to resign the office. A meeting followed at which the office of patron was instituted and His Excellency was pleased to accept same. To the office of president, the Society elected His Honour Chief Justice Cockle.

JAMES COCKLE, (see R.H., 1896) was born in Essex in 1819, graduated from Cambridge in 1841, and was appointed first Chief Justice of Queensland in 1863. Held in high esteem as a righteous and dignified judge, he was essentially of a retiring disposition, a man of simple tastes, tolerant and even tempered, who took little part in public affairs. Cockle was a distinguished mathematician, and was elected F.R.S. in 1865. His work, mainly on higher equations of common algebra and on the theory of differential equations, is described as eminently initiatory—he struck out ideas which took root in other minds and bore fruit. He was President 1863-77, when he returned to England, and a member till his death in 1895. His seven presidential addresses are notable for the elegant logical method by which the discussion is developed. He dwelt on the value of pure scientific research without immediate practical result, and of the study of the history of science, and urged that the society embrace the largest possible field of topics and enquiry. He also presented three mathematical papers in 1865 and 1866.

It is difficult to assess Cockle's role in the history of the Philosophical Society. Probably at first he attended meetings as often as he could, but the minute book shows that from 1868 onward he came to only eight meetings in ten years. At the annual meeting in March 1875 "a majority of members" were "of the opinion that the little interest taken in the Society by Sir James Cockle as President during the last few years was inimical to the well doing of the Society". (He had been knighted in 1869.) However he was unanimously re-elected president in May. It seems unlikely he would have continued in office unless persuaded it was in the best interests of the Society, but in retrospect one wonders to what extent the lack of an active president contributed to its decline. Perhaps the best comment is the decision of its successor, the newly formed Royal Society, that no president should hold office for two years in succession.

I must here introduce four more members, who played a large part in keeping the Philosophical Society going in its later years, both by their active participation and by their regular attendance.

WILLIAM PETTIGREW, born in Scotland in 1825, came to Brisbane in 1849 in the *Fortitude* as Surveyor for Dr. Lang and acted as his agent in Brisbane. By 1853 he had established the Brisbane Steam Saw Mills in William Street and soon built up a flourishing business. He was an Alderman in 1862, Mayor of Brisbane 1870-71, and M.L.C. in 1877. He seems to have been a very enterprising and interesting character of an experimental turn of mind. He joined the Society in 1862 and continued in it till his death in 1906. He was a councillor 1867-69 and 1872, Treasurer 1872-83, and probably attended more meetings than any other member. He was also active in the early Royal Society. He gave six papers on practical subjects such as drainage, ship-building, railways, and timbers, usually illustrated by models and accompanied by estimates of costs. In 1873 he suggested that communication should be established between the junction of the Stanley and Brisbane Rivers and the City of Brisbane with a view to giving timely notice of floods. After discussion on coast upheaval in 1880, he invited members to a run in his boat to Lytton and Cleveland to investigate the raised beaches. Whether they went is unknown—if so, it was probably the Society's only field trip.

DR. JOHN NEILL WAUGH, born in London in 1818, obtained his M.D. there, and came to Brisbane in 1858, where he practised on North Quay as a homeopathic doctor. He joined the Society in 1864 and continued in it till his death in 1900. He served as councillor 1866-70, 1872-74, 1878-81, and curator 1882-83, was chairman on various occasions, active in discussions, and a member of sub-committees and deputations. He last appears as chairman of the Antarctic Committee of the Royal Society in 1890. He gave only one paper, in 1865, on "Spectrum Analysis", accompanied by a demonstration of his spectroscope.

JAMES THORPE joined in 1874, and was secretary 1874-83 (also councillor of the Royal Society 1884). He was accountant at the Government Printing Office and a keen meteorologist, giving several papers on this subject. He died in 1899.

DR. JOSEPH BANCROFT, born near Manchester in 1836, M.D. of St. Andrew's, came to Brisbane in 1864 and was in private practice except when Resident Surgeon at the Brisbane Hospital, 1868-71. He joined the Society in 1866 and served as councillor, 1870-71, 1878-81, curator 1872-74, president 1882-83. In the Royal Society he was vice-president 1883, president 1884, councillor 1885, and treasurer 1886-88. He died in 1894. He represents in the highest degree the combination of observant field naturalist and critical experimental biologist and is undoubtedly the outstanding scientific personality in the records of the Philosophical Society. The subjects of the many papers and exhibits presented by Bancroft included tick poisoning of dogs; scale insects (he burnt a small candle he had made from their wax); an "artificial leech" he had designed for treatment of snakebite; castor oil pressed from local plants ("tried in the Brisbane Hospital and found to act efficiently"); preparation of pemmican; medical properties of *Alstonia constricta*; fungus

of sugar cane; mammary glands of the echidna; and (in January 1880) a new poisonous burr growing up the Brisbane River at Noogoora. The most important of his researches recorded in the Society's *Transactions* are those on Pituri and allied plants of the genus *Duboisia* and their physiological action. In 1879 he gave a paper on "Pituri and Tobacco" of which the Society had a large number of copies printed, with a foreword from the president asking for samples of plants similar to those illustrated to be sent to the Society. These were forwarded to stations in the far west during 1880. It was hoped to get sufficient material to establish the plant in cultivation but the outcome is not recorded. Later papers to the Royal Society included "Experiments with Indian Wheats in Queensland" and ". . . Maize Disease in the Caboolture District".

There are about 125 names mentioned in the various records of the Philosophical Society, of which 92 are entered in the Members Book. The members included S. W. GRIFFITH (member 1869-1920, councillor 1870-72), CHARLES LILLEY (joined 1876) and C. S. MEIN (member 1869-90, councillor 1871, 1876-81) who were during their membership ministers of the Crown and judges; MR. JUSTICE LUTWYCHE; DONALD CAMERON, M.A., (joined 1868, secretary 1873-4), later headmaster of Ipswich Grammar School; WILLIAM COOTE, C.E., architect of the Old Town Hall, (joined 1861) who in his paper in 1862 on "The Influence of Climate on our Domestic Architecture" gave many suggestions (e.g. louvres for ventilation) being practised today; W. D. NISBET, M.I.C.E., (joined 1877, vice-president 1878-83), Engineer of Harbours and Rivers; K. T. STAIGER (joined 1873, curator 1874, councillor 1876-81) Government Analyst and a frequent exhibitor at meetings.

THE MUSEUM

Coxen and others had founded the Museum in 1855, but no doubt felt more would be achieved by a Society than by individuals. It seems that whatever collection already existed must have been handed over to the Society. The first report on the Society's progress (December 1862) states, "With a view to increasing its utility and of benefiting the colony at large as much as possible, the Society has during the past year specially directed its attention to the formation of a nucleus of a museum of natural science for which purpose the Government has granted the temporary use of some rooms in the Signal Station (*i.e.* the Old Observatory) on Wickham Terrace, as a depository for such specimens as the Society have been able to obtain; and suitable cases have been purchased for their preservation".

Acknowledgment is made to Messrs. Coxen, Rawnsley, Waller, and others for contributions of specimens of conchology, ornithology, etc., to Mr. Tiffin for a microscope, and to the Government for a grant of £100 in furtherance of the objects of the Society. An appeal to the colonists for specimens follows.

During 1863 two cabinets containing "one of the largest and best private collections of insects in the colonies" were purchased for £18 from Mr. Salting of Sydney. Diggles arranged them and supplied many specimens of his own to make the collection more complete. Donations included a case of fossils from Fitzroy Downs from J. K. Wilson. In

November the Secretary of Lands advised that the Government was willing to grant a site for a museum in a very commanding position near the entrance gates of Government House. Subsequently Cockle, Bliss, and Wight were deputed to confer with the Minister for Lands and Works on the question of trustees for the projected museum, but the outcome is not recorded.

In January 1864, it was reported that "the Society's specimens in the Windmill Tower are in an excellent state of preservation", but in December 1866, "the cases in the Windmill have suffered considerably during the late heavy rains; happily but little damage has at present been done but we can hardly hope to escape much longer". There was probably no move until October 1868, when the Society was given a room lately occupied by the Parliamentary Library (in the Old Barracks building about the present site of Allan & Stark), but in January 1869 it was asked to vacate this and was granted a small inadequately lighted room in the same building where, owing to lack of space, half the specimens remained packed away.

During 1869 the Society purchased from Messrs. Cockerell and Thorpe a collection of 46 birds of Cape York, with the promise of 30 more; the price, £25, was considered very low. Coxen took charge of these skins for mounting and was to obtain a case for them at not more than £5. Gifts continued to come in, and Coxen placed on loan his collection of Australian shells, arranged in glass cases provided by the Society. Stereoscopic photographs of views on the Gilbert River, taken by Mr. Daintree and geological specimens from the Gilbert and Gympie districts were received from the Minister for Works through C. S. Mein. In 1870 Cockerell presented 122 birds and £10 was spent on glass doors for the shelves of ornithological specimens.

In April 1871, a deputation, consisting of Coxen, Diggles, and Bancroft, interviewed the Minister for Public Works, who was favourably disposed to the erection of a building for a public Museum and promised to bring the matter before his colleagues. The outcome was unexpected and at the time a bitter disappointment. In a letter of 15th June, the Secretary for Public Works requested that the Society hand over to Mr. C. D. H. Aplin "The various geological specimens belonging to the Government . . . delivered over to the Society by Messrs. Aplin, Daintree and others at sundry times". This was discussed at meetings in July and August and it was concluded the only course was to comply. Coxen, Waugh, and Mein were absent from these meetings but present in September, when, after lengthy discussion, it was resolved that members of the Society were still the owners of the geological collections presented by Mr. Daintree to the Society's Museum "until a public museum is erected in which they can be suitably displayed". It was left to Coxen to see the Minister on the matter and at the October meeting he reported that the Government had appointed him custodian of the Geological Museum (which was housed in the Parliamentary Building).

In 1872 the Government provided more space for the Geological Museum in the first General Post Office Building (at the present site of Edwards & Lamb). Coxen evidently realised that here was the beginning of the Public Museum he had worked for, and wished to transfer his

shell collection to it. The Society agreed to sell the cases housing it to the Government at cost price, £20. The last acknowledgment of gifts of specimens to the Society is in January 1873, and it seems likely that the collections were handed over to the Government's Museum in that year though there is no record of it.

Its work towards the formation of the Queensland Museum was undoubtedly the greatest achievement of the Philosophical Society.

MEETING PLACES

Meetings were at night, and at first were on the first Tuesday of the month. It may be a commentary on Brisbane's street lighting that in 1869 they were fixed for the Thursday nearest the full moon. A short Council Meeting followed the General Meeting.

The site changed from the Hospital to the Municipal Council Chambers (at Pettigrew's suggestion) in 1863 and continued in them until 1868; after 1864 these were in the old Town Hall Building, Queen Street. In September 1868, application was made to the Colonial Secretary for the use of a room in the recently vacated Legislative Chambers; the accommodation granted was barely sufficient to accommodate members at ordinary meetings. When the Public Museum was accommodated in the Post Office Building, the Society was apparently granted a room there, which proved equally inconvenient.

By 1878 the new Museum (present Public Library) was being built. Dr. Bancroft thought the Society should show either a right to a room in it (having handed over their collections in return for a room for members to meet in) or to a £ for £ subsidy on annual subscriptions. After the museum moved, the Society in 1879 obtained a room which formed part of the old museum buildings for its sole use and this was available for members daily until the building was pulled down about a year later. During 1881 meetings were partially suspended due to lack of accommodation. In 1882 the Trustees of the Museum allowed meetings to be held in the curator's room in the basement, but the accommodation was unsuitable and in August 1883 it was unanimously decided "that Mr. Pettigrew's offer to erect a building on condition of the Society renting it for two years at 6s. per week be accepted". Nothing further came of this due to formation of the Royal Society.

The unsuitability of the accommodation for its library and its meetings was undoubtedly one of the factors which led to a decline in interest in the Philosophical Society.

MEETINGS

Up to 1867 there were 8 or 9 monthly meetings with 4-8 papers each year. A typical comment was "The reading of the above communication gave rise to a lengthy and animated conversation, in which all the members took part".

The early 1860's were a time of great prosperity in Brisbane, but this was followed by a period of serious financial stress and there was no increase in membership in 1866. That year R. G. Suter (architect of St. Mary's Church, Kangaroo Point) gave a controversial paper on

"The Construction and Arrangement of Hospitals" while the new hospital designed by Tiffin was being built, and there were some conciliatory remarks by Suter at the following meeting, that it would prove an ornament to the city.

There are no records of meetings between June 1867 and June 1868. It seems the Society may have gone into recess and the secretary, Rev. Bliss, resigned. It resumed with an exhibit evening and R. G. Suter as secretary, and it is from here on that the original minute books are available.

Attendances in 1869 were 6-14 and 25 members were involved, a high proportion, as the Annual Report in December 1869 states "... the total number now on the roll book amounts to 30". Thus of the 73 entries in the Members Book up to that time, 43 had dropped out or died.

From 1870-73 there were 11-12 meetings with 1-3 papers per year. Exhibits were numerous and "Regular meetings . . . frequently assumed the character of a conversazione". Attendance was 4-15, usually 5-8. In 1870 a proposal that reporters be admitted to meetings was defeated. J. S. Gray of the Union Bank became secretary that year. K. T. Staiger gave a paper on "Destructive distillation of organic substances" in 1873.

From 1874-79 there were 7-10 meetings with 3-5 papers a year, some others lapsing; attendance was usually 4-8. At the April 1874 meeting, the chairman (Diggles) having mentioned that he knew of some ladies who would be glad to attend meetings of the Society, it was resolved that the visits of ladies would be always welcome. From the records it appears that the only lady ever present at a meeting of the Philosophical Society was Mrs. Coxen who accompanied her husband to the last meeting he attended in December 1875. A paper in 1875 by Mr. George Bennett of Toowoomba, "Notes on a Ramble in search of Fossil Remains on the Darling Downs", is a valuable guide to the early collecting sites from which many specimens had been sent to the British Museum.

In 1876 several English scientists were made Honorary and Corresponding Members. More attention was given to the physical sciences with Staiger's exhibits of Geissler tubes, of rocks (with the microscope and polarislide), and of the spectra of indium and thallium (with the spectroscope). A conversazione was held in June 1878, with an attendance of 14, and exhibits included the telephone by H. Starke, slides with the lime light and lantern by J. W. Sutton, and the electric light. After some refreshments (the only time recorded for the Philosophical Society), the members wished Sir James Cockle bon voyage. He was succeeded as president by A. C. Gregory, who the following month gave a paper "On the Supply of Water to the City of Brisbane". The existing supply was from Enoggera Reservoir and Gregory advocated a dam on the north branch of Moggill Creek (*i.e.* Gold Creek) which was in fact the next reservoir built. This was one of the outstanding meetings of the Society and the paper and discussion were fully reported in the press. It was further discussed at the October meeting when D. C. McConnel of Cressbrook, a member for many years, made his

only recorded appearance with a prepared commentary, and Gregory maintained that the primary question was to increase the water supply, while Bancroft argued that it was more urgent to purify the present supply.

In 1880 there were 6 meetings and 2 papers. Towards the end of the year the Society lost its room and there was only one meeting in 1881, in March, at which 4 were present and F. M. Bailey gave a paper on "Naturalized Solanums". Informal and unrecorded meetings were held from time to time but the next in the minute book was an Annual Meeting in June 1882, at which Dr. Bancroft became president. There were 2 ordinary meetings that year and 3 papers. The secretary was directed to communicate the present position of the Society to former members. The meetings of 1883 are discussed later.

FINANCE

Records are scanty. Annual subscription was £1 with a composition fee for new members of £1; no candidate was elected until he had deposited £1 with the secretary. Life membership was £5.

In 1862 the Government promised an annual grant of £100, which was paid in 1862 but retracted in 1863. The treasurer's report in 1865 shows a balance of £109, which suggests that a further grant may have been received, but there was none from 1868 onward. In 1868, a year of financial crisis in the community, £22 was spent on periodicals but only £14 was received in subscriptions. In 1869 Dr. Waugh arranged insurance of the Society's property for £250 at a premium of £3 4s. 6d.

The secretary seems to have done most of the financial transactions; the treasurer seldom appeared except at Annual Meetings. In 1870 two auditors reported, "From having been kept by two persons apparently without reference to each other the accounts were somewhat confusing"; the balance was £82. Receipts from subscriptions were of the order of £20 per year, barely sufficient for working expenses. In 1873 the insurance policy was reduced to £150 and no books of value were to be procured owing to the state of the funds. In 1881 only four subscriptions were received. A sum of £117 3s. 10d. was handed over to the Royal Society in January 1884.

PUBLICATION

Three volumes of *Transactions of the Philosophical Society of Queensland* were issued. Early papers were published in the *Queensland Guardian* and 40 separates supplied free to the Society; the balance of papers in Vol. I were printed by the *Courier*, a sample charge being £1 5s. 0d. for 50 copies of the Report and Presidential Address for 1869. In 1872 the Council decided to have 30 volumes of the Society's papers bound and an index printed for insertion in each. The number of included papers varies slightly, the most found being 39 papers, plus 7 Annual Reports and Presidential Addresses. Vol. I is now a great rarity.

In 1874, as the result of a deputation, the Colonial Secretary's Office advised that "papers read before the Society might for the future be printed

at the Government printing office free of expense to the Society provided that no great expense or inconvenience be entailed thereby". Vol. II., published in 1878, contains eight papers delivered between 1873 and 1877 (some of which had been previously issued separately) and the Report and Presidential Address for 1876. Vol. III. contains six papers delivered between August 1878 and June 1882. Application was made in 1882 to have these bound at the Government Printing Office; this was apparently granted.

THE LIBRARY

In 1863 it was resolved where practicable to exchange papers with similar societies "in the Australian colonies, Tasmania, and at home". Negotiations with the Government for a Museum site during 1863 apparently envisaged also a Public Library, but this is not mentioned later. In December 1864 a small committee was formed to draw up a list of books necessary to enable the Society to carry out its object. In December 1865 it was reported, "The first supply of scientific periodicals has been received . . . The first shipment of books . . . is daily expected to arrive".

In 1866 the Council thanked the Mayor and Corporation of Brisbane for permission to place in the room where meetings were held a case containing the books belonging to the Society. (This was probably a cedar bookcase, purchased from the Royal Society by my father, beside which most of this history has been written). By 1868 the Society was subscribing to eight journals and these were bound. As the *Transactions* were not a regular publication it had no exchange list. Books were added by purchase and gift and in 1869 a catalogue was being compiled.

By 1878 the bookcase was overfull and many valuable works were crowded into a cupboard where they were becoming mildewed. The Annual Report in June 1882 states that the Trustees of the Museum permitted the books to be stored in the upper storey "pending final arrangements"; they were later removed to another room. The library borrowing book is in the Society's archives.

OTHER ACTIVITIES

In December 1862 the Society convened a meeting with other bodies, which arranged a large public meeting, attended by the Governor, at which an address from the people of Queensland was presented to Mr. W. S. Landsborough, the explorer.

The Society wrote, and also published a statement in the press, in April 1869, urging the Government to reconsider its decision to discontinue the Geological Survey.

In 1870 the Society was asked by the Agent General in London to arrange for native implements and aboriginal skeletons to be sent to scientists in England. It had letters printed in the papers and offered to receive and dispatch specimens, but there was no response.

Dr. Waugh mentioned in 1875 that several years ago the Society tried to get Government support towards a systematic search for fossils but without success.

The Society was invited to take part in the Eclipse Expedition to Cape York in 1871, but did not feel justified in financing one of its members; Diggles went as Queensland Government representative.

Apparently the Society at first kept a file of meteorological observations taken at Brisbane by Dr. Barton, and reports were also supplied by R. B. Sheridan of Maryborough. Regular reports had ceased by 1865. The need for provision of meteorological stations both inland and on the coast was repeatedly urged, notably in papers by N. Bartley in 1864 and J. Thorpe in 1876, when there were still only four stations, all in the south-east of the colony. A leading member, Captain H. O'Reilly, had a well equipped private astronomical observatory. His health failed, and a deputation from the Society in 1877 waited on the Colonial Secretary to urge on the Government the necessity for an official true time for the colony and for establishing astronomical and more extended meteorological observations. It also suggested that O'Reilly's observatory be purchased for the public service. A favourable reply was received only with regard to establishment of more observations, though in the event, a Government meteorologist was not appointed until 1887.

A meeting in 1878 decided to forward a resolution to the Central Board of Health that reservoirs for aerating and purifying the water supply be erected as near the city as practicable.

THE METAMORPHOSIS

In 1871 and in 1876 there were discussions on steps to increase the usefulness of the Society, but no decisions were reached. In November 1878 a Special Meeting was called by Bancroft, Waugh, and Staiger to enable Rev. J. E. Tennison-Woods to meet members. He was one of the most eminent scientists in Australia, a geologist, palaeontologist, and to a lesser extent botanist and zoologist. He gave them a real pep-talk, comparing the activity, finances, and publications of kindred societies in the other colonies and pointing out that they lost a great deal by exchanges. He suggested increasing the membership, seeking a Government grant, prompt publication of papers, and revising the rules. A committee, consisting of Gregory, Nisbet, Bancroft, Waugh, and Thorpe, was formed to take action in the matter, and in March 1879 Waugh took the sense of the meeting on alterations to the rules which included: That the Governor be asked to become patron—negatived (this office had been abolished on Governor Blackall's death), and That the name of the Society be changed to that of Royal Society of Queensland—assented to. However the name change must have been excluded before the revised rules were finally assented to in the following October.

In May 1883 a discussion took place on the present low condition of the Society. Suggestions included incorporating with a new Society ("there is a probability of one being commenced shortly"), changing the name and removing to more suitable premises. The discussion was resumed in June, when Bancroft gave a resumé (not recorded) of the history of the Society, and continued in August. Bancroft concluded that the work of the Society being finished, a change of name might be considered and suggested "The Naturalists' Society". In the ensuing discussion, mention was made of the objections urged by many persons

to the name "Philosophical Society". A motion "That the name of the Society be changed to Natural History Society of Queensland" was carried, Pettigrew dissenting. Others "That the assets of the Queensland Philosophical Society be transferred and the liabilities taken over by the new Society" and "That circulars be sent to persons likely to become members of the new Society" were carried unanimously. In the Members Book there is an untitled and undated list of 73 names, which may well be those to whom this circular was sent, since it differs somewhat from the list of original members of the Royal Society.

The following printed circular, addressed to H. Tryon Esq., Brisbane, is pasted inside the cover of the first minute book of the Royal Society of Queensland: "Brisbane, 8th Sept., 1883. Sir, It having been proposed to reconstitute the Queensland Philosophical Society under the name and title of the Natural History Society of Queensland, your presence is requested at a meeting of the new Society, to be held at the Museum, on the 13th (altered in blue pencil to 20th) inst., at 7.30 p.m. I am, Sir, Yours truly, Jas. Thorpe, Hon. Sec. pro tem."

In the Philosophical Society minute book it is recorded "At a meeting held at the Museum on 13th (*sic*) September, Hon. A. C. Gregory in the Chair, a motion was carried that a new Society be formed to be called the Royal Society of Queensland". At the last recorded meeting of the Philosophical Society in October, at which were present Messrs. Bancroft, Pettigrew, Preston, Sutton, and Thorpe, a letter was read from the secretary of the proposed Royal Society of Queensland, notifying that a committee (Messrs. L. Byrne, Ringrose, and Rev. B. Scortechini) had been appointed to confer with a committee of the Queensland Philosophical Society with a view to amalgamation. Messrs. Bancroft, Nisbet, and Gregory were appointed the committee to confer on the conditions "That in consideration of the cash assets, properties etc. of the Q.P.S. being handed over, the present members of that Society become Life Members of the new Society" and "that Rule 1 of the Royal Society record the fact of the amalgamation."

The last act of the Philosophical Society was on 22nd and 23rd January, 1884, when sums totalling £117 3s. 10d. were paid to the account of the Royal Society of Queensland. There is no mention of what the property comprised or its value, though obviously the library would be the main item. Since Life Membership of the new Society was £5 5s. 0d. and there were remaining only 14 members of the Philosophical Society, the arrangement was a very fair one.

II. THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF QUEENSLAND— THE PERIOD 1883-1911

Newspaper reports state that 30-40 were present at the meeting on 20th September, 1883. There are 23 signatures of those who enrolled at this meeting, 5 being members of the Philosophical Society. The title to be used was debated and a motion that it be the Royal Society of Queensland was agreed to, though some thought it too ambitious. A committee was appointed to draw up rules which were passed provisionally at a meeting on 11th October. At the next meeting on 26th November the report on terms for incorporation of the Philosophical Society was adopted.

Officers appointed to hold office until an annual meeting in July were: President, A. C. Gregory; Vice-president, J. Bancroft; Hon. Treasurer, W. D. Nisbet; Hon. Secretary, H. Tryon; Council, Rev. B. Scortechini, C. W. De Vis, W. Alcock Tully, J. W. Sutton, F. M. Bailey. Trustees were Tully, Bancroft, and Gregory. The original rules state, "The Royal Society of Queensland, with which is amalgamated the Queensland Philosophical Society, is formed for the furtherance of Natural Science and its application".

The Inaugural Meeting was held in the Museum Library on January 8th, 1884, with His Excellency Sir Anthony Musgrave, K.C.M.G., Patron of the Society, in the Chair (he frequently attended subsequent meetings) and the secretary reported 67 members. Regular monthly meetings followed. At first there were three or four papers at each meeting; when the supply slackened Council decided to continue holding meetings of a less formal character.

Steps were taken to secure proper sanction for the title of the Society and in May 1885 advice was received that "Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to comply with the prayer that your Society may be permitted to assume the title of the 'Royal Society of Queensland'."

At the Annual Meeting in July 1884, Council recommended adoption of a rule providing for the formation of sections. Membership was now 121; of 10 new members balloted for in 1885, 5 were M.L.A.s. Main subjects of these early meetings were ethnology, botany, vertebrate zoology, palaeontology, with a little geology and meteorology.

At the Council Meeting in February 1886, the secretary drew attention to the question of the admission of ladies as members, and it was decided that as no restriction was made on the sex of members by the rules, their admission might be sought through the ordinary channel of the ballot. The first woman member was Mrs. Charles Coxen, elected in December 1886, and she was soon followed by 3 or 4 others. The rules were altered to admit junior associate members under 21 at half subscription, and the first enrolled in February 1889 were A. J. Norton Jnr. and Inigo Jones. At the same meeting there was discussion on the necessity for the speedy destruction of prickly pear.

An outstanding meeting was one held in the Town Hall in 1890 when Rev. R. Harley, M.A., F.R.S., F.R.A.S., lectured on "The Moon". His Excellency Sir Henry Norman presided and the audience overflowed into the corridors. The lecture was illustrated by means of an oxy-hydrogen lantern lent by J. W. Sutton. Harley was a great friend of Cockle, who had suggested he be asked to give the lecture. The Mayor was thanked for lending the Town Hall free of cost—as will be seen, the Society could hardly have afforded to pay for it.

Seventy-three attended the Annual Meeting for 1890, at which the retiring president, W. Saville-Kent, Commissioner of Fisheries and a noted photographer and authority on the Barrier Reef, urged the establishment of a Marine Biological Station in Queensland, and suggested Thursday Island as the site. He said that when it was established, the Society "will possess some claim for recognition as having given birth to the germ

of its initiation". The patron, Sir Henry Norman, who came to meetings from time to time and took part in the discussion of a paper by Dr. Eugen Hirschfeld on leprosy, was one of the Society's delegates to the A.A.A.S. meeting in Hobart in 1892, where, on his motion, Brisbane was selected as the next meeting place.

Some members were keen microscopists, including C. J. Pound, Government Bacteriologist, Dr. A. J. Turner and W. Byram, a solicitor. There was a large attendance at a meeting given to microscopical demonstrations in June 1895, when 10 instruments were in use. In 1896 it was decided to hold popular lectures on scientific subjects, which it was hoped would help to increase the membership. The Centennial Hall was hired and a small charge made, but as there was a large free list the two held were run at a slight loss. Two more were held in 1897. Over 100 attended an ordinary meeting to hear J. W. Sutton on "Experiments with Roentgen Rays".

In July 1899 the Society held a scientific *conversazione*, to which 1,000 invitations were issued and 700-800 attended. The whole of the rooms of the Technical College were occupied and it was a great success. Music and refreshments cost £15. My father attended it as a schoolboy and recalls that Dr. John (Jock) Thomson (who was president in 1900 and 1902) and Dr. Wilton Love (who was president in 1903) were exhibitors, the latter with an X-ray machine. Possibly as an outcome, 33 new members were elected that year. In 1899 the Society received a generous Government subsidy, and in 1900 purchased a Ross lantern and ordered a projective microscope attachment. Mr. A. G. Jackson was appointed lanternist, and the lantern was sometimes lent to other bodies on condition it was in his charge. A lantern and microscopical evening held in the Centennial Hall in 1901 had a large attendance.

During 1904 and 1905 informal interim lantern lectures were held in addition to monthly meetings; most of them were travel talks by A. Norton and attendances were about 100. In November 1905, Saville-Kent gave a talk on three-colour photography, apparently the first to the Society to be illustrated with coloured lantern slides. Exhibits during 1906 included living pond life on the lantern by W. R. Colledge. Two largely attended lectures in 1907 were by Saville-Kent on coral reefs of Torres Strait and Solomon Islands, and by S. B. J. Skertchly on the "Building of Australia". The School of Arts Hall was hired for a repeat of the latter the following year. In 1909 Professor Laby (who was en route to Wellington), under the joint auspices of the Society and the South Brisbane Technical College, gave an "interesting though highly technical" lecture on "The Atomic Theory of Chemistry".

Two notable evenings were organised by J. B. Henderson, the Government Analyst, at the laboratories in the Executive Building, the first in 1909 and the second in 1911. F. Smith, E. H. Gurney, and F. Connah were members of his staff and of the Society who demonstrated many activities of the laboratories. Mrs. Henderson and other ladies provided refreshments. In 1910 Henderson exhibited the electroscope for testing radioactivity in minerals and ores. The same year Dr. Karl Domin, Professor of Botany at the Bohemian University, Prague, lectured on his

botanical research in tropical Queensland and his colleague Dr. Danes, Professor of Geography, gave a lecture on the physiography of the limestone areas of the state. The Albert Hall was taken for a lantern lecture on the South Sea Islands by Rev. George Brown, D.D., an eminent authority. The patron, Sir William MacGregor, took an active interest in the Society.

Attendance at meetings in the 1880's and 1890's was usually of the order of 15-20, and in the 1900's 20-30. There was no summer recess, though sometimes 2 or 3 meetings lapsed. Membership was 146 in July 1886 and apparently continued at about 120-130 up to the late 1890's though to judge from the amount received in subscriptions each year there must have been a fair number of defaulters. These were later crossed off, and with deaths and resignations membership fell to 70-80. In 1906 there was a drive for new members to improve the financial situation, and 44 elected during the year brought the total to 115, but by the beginning of 1911 it was 91. The first of the new University Staff joined in 1911—Professors Gibson, Steele, and Priestley; H. C. Richards was already a member.

Let us now meet a few of the members.

AUGUSTUS CHARLES GREGORY, C.M.G., M.L.C., first president, was one of the great Australian explorers of the 1840's and 1850's and Surveyor-General of Queensland in 1859-79. He was elected to the Philosophical Society in 1860 and gave a paper on the Geology of northern Australia in 1861, but presumably resigned later as he was re-elected in 1872; he was vice-president 1876-77 and president 1878-81. He gave the Inaugural Address of the Royal Society in January 1884 and was again president in 1887. He was a short man, of splendid physique, a fine and erudite speaker, and the acme of modesty.

CHARLES WALTER DE VIS, M.A., came to Australia in 1870 and was appointed Curator of the Queensland Museum in 1882. He served on the council (with one break) 1883-94 and was president in 1888. He worked mainly on the taxonomy of fossil and living vertebrates, published about 40 papers in the *Proceedings*, and regularly exhibited at meetings recent acquisitions of the Museum. His interest was important to the infant Society, which met at the Museum, and the secretary was one of his staff.

FREDERICK MANSON BAILEY (see White, 1950) came to Brisbane in 1861. He was elected an Honorary Member of the Philosophical Society in 1880 and served 14 years on the Royal Society council between 1883 and 1900, being president in 1890. He published numerous papers in the *Proceedings*. He had been appointed Colonial Botanist in 1881 and became the leader and inspiration of the Field Naturalists Section of the Society, to whom he was known as "Professor". I quote from verses about the Section by J. H. Simmonds—

"Yet his time and his talents were given unsought

To any who showed that they wished to be taught."

His son, J. F. Bailey, and grandson, C. T. White, were also members.

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JOHN HOWARD SIMMONDS, a foundation member, was a stonemason, and a quiet man with a delightful sense of humour. He was a keen botanist, conchologist, and fossil collector, and a very active member and joint secretary of the Field Naturalists Section, preparing many of the herbarium specimens obtained on their outings. His membership was not continuous but spans the greatest time of any, 72 years. He was made an Honorary Life Member in 1934 and died in 1955. His son J. H. Simmonds is a present member.

GEORGE WATKINS, a pharmacist, was a foundation member and became joint secretary of the Field Naturalists Section (he also took part in the Biology Section in 1915). Besides botany, he was interested in the aborigines and gave a paper in 1891 on those of Stradbroke Island, where he had spent a considerable period at Dunwich. He attended meetings regularly and was treasurer 1890-91 and auditor from 1905 until his death in 1916. His son S. B. Watkins is a present member.

DR. JOSEPH LAUTERER, born in 1848 at Freiburg, Germany, came to Queensland and joined the Society in 1886. He was a councillor 1893-95, president 1896, and a keen member of the Field Naturalists Section. He published numerous papers on the chemistry of plant products and on aboriginal languages, and was a very entertaining lecturer. In 1891 he read a paper on aboriginal languages with great effect and sang aboriginal songs. In 1894 he discussed Queensland wines, of which he had 35 specimens which he invited his hearers to taste. Apparently not many did so, after his description of the effects on the consumer. In 1895 he gave a paper on bunya nuts and handed round raw and roasted nuts to members.

MRS. CHARLES COXEN, the first woman member in 1886, was before her marriage in 1851, Elizabeth Frances Isaac. Her brothers had Gowrie Station, adjoining Coxen's "Jondaryan" on the Darling Downs. She kept regular meteorological records at her home at Bulimba, which were tabled at meetings or read by the secretary. She was a keen conchologist and in November 1893 became the first woman to read a paper to the Society, "Notes on the Cypreae", in which she mentions a time when she was in charge of the shell collection at the Museum. She attended meetings regularly for many years, dying in 1906.

ALBERT NORTON, a nephew of John Oxley and son-in-law of Dr. F. J. Barton, was born in N.S.W. in 1836, and purchased Rodd's Bay run near Gladstone in 1860. He served in Parliament from 1867 onward, as M.L.A. (being Speaker for some years) or M.L.C. He took a prominent part in the foundation of the Society and was one of the stalwarts who worked hard to keep it going in difficult periods, persuading many of his parliamentary and pastoral friends and others (including my father) to become members. He must have been a tremendous reader, for he gave papers of the review type on a great variety of subjects, as well as valuable accounts of the trips of explorers (*e.g.* the Jardines) and early settlers, and would often fill the gap if no speaker was available for a meeting. He was a big man, very well liked, and was invaluable on deputations to the Government. Norton was a delegate to and vice-president of A.A.A.S., and served on the Council 1884-1908 (except

1890), being president and vice-president twice and treasurer for 14 years. He died in 1914. His son, A. J. Norton, was also a member.

JOHN SHIRLEY, born in Dorchester, England in 1849, was a student of T. H. Huxley. He arrived in Queensland in 1878 and was District Inspector of Schools when he joined the Society in 1886. He obtained his D.Sc. from Sydney University in 1912, and in 1914 became first Principal of the Teacher's Training College. He was an imposing figure, six feet tall, well built, handsome, and an able speaker. His main publications were a series on "The Lichen Flora of Queensland", and he was also a conchologist. Except for the years 1893-4 and 1911, Shirley served continuously on the council from 1887 to 1921; he was secretary 1888, vice-president 1889 and 1913, president 1892 and 1914, and treasurer 1917-21. This service of 33 years is by far the longest anyone has given the Society. About 1896 he spent all his leisure hours for twelve months in preparing an account of the scientific literature of the Colony, which the Society had promised to furnish to the Chief Secretary for the information of the International Catalogue Conference; the volume was highly praised in London. Shirley was local secretary of A.A.A.S. for many years. He died in 1922.

HENRY TRYON (see White, 1945), the first Secretary (1883-7), was probably the stormiest member in the Society's history, and even in old age a notable personality. Described at his election as "a young and distinguished student", he had a brilliant brain, a sarcastic tongue and a cantankerous nature. He was the terror of inexperienced or ill-prepared speakers, for he had the reputation of reading up the subject beforehand and metaphorically tearing a paper to pieces. He must have done a tremendous amount of work as secretary in approaching prospective members, establishing exchanges, and seeing the publications through the press, and the first letter book of the Society bears witness to this. In 1891 he returned one of the Society's circulars with remarks considered disrespectful to the Council and his resignation was accepted. He was re-elected in 1905, but in 1906, when Norton and others had nominated many non-scientists for membership, he came to a meeting prepared to comment adversely on them. Shirley is reputed to have averted this by sitting immediately behind Tryon and threatening that, if he did not sit down when Shirley said, "That is enough, Mr. Tryon", he would be very, very sorry. However apparently he wrote a letter to the press on the subject and in 1907 the Council asked for an apology and pointed out his subscription was in arrear; receiving no reply they removed his name from the list of members. He was re-elected in 1920 and made an Honorary Life Member in 1929. He continued to attend meetings up to 1941 and died in 1943. I personally must acknowledge his kindness and encouragement to me as a new young member.

SYDNEY B. J. SKERTCHLY, elected in 1895, had been taught by Huxley and Lyell and had done distinguished work in England in the 1870's on the stratigraphical position of stone implements. He was a correspondent of Darwin and had helped in the compilation of Wallace's *Island Life* and Geikie's *Great Ice Age*. He was Professor of Botany at Hong Kong before coming to Brisbane. He published in the *Proceedings* mainly on geology. Skertchly was a distinguished and often brilliant lecturer, with a sparkling wit and (so I am told) a great advantage over most speakers in that he

never felt under any compulsion to stick to facts. He was president in 1898, but his membership apparently lapsed about 1900. However the Council told him he was always welcome at meetings and he continued to take an active part in them. He was again a member from 1923 till his death in 1926. He addressed the Society in 1921 on "Glacial Man: My Part in his Discovery", more or less an account of his life history. He was staying with Mr. and Mrs. Longman, who had gauged just the right amount to leave in the decanter while they were out, to make him nicely mellow, and in the memory of those who were there this was one of the most outstanding lectures the Society has had.

DR. THOMAS LANE BANCROFT (see Hines, 1947), son of Joseph Bancroft, was born in 1860, joined the Society in 1888 and was an active member while he resided in Brisbane, being a councillor 1890-91. He resigned in 1892, was made an Honorary Life Member in 1915, and died in 1933. He frequently gave microscopical demonstrations, and published in the *Proceedings* on the pharmacology of Queensland plants, on blood parasites of birds and mammals, and on the life history of the lung fish. His daughter, M. J. Mackerras, is a present member.

JOHN FREDERICK BAILEY, son of F. M. Bailey, born in 1860, was secretary 1893-1905, the longest service of any in this office. In recognition of his services in this difficult period he was made an Honorary Life Member in 1904. He was councillor 1906-07, 1911-13, vice-president 1908, president 1909. Bailey was Director of the Botanic Gardens 1905-17 and Government Botanist 1915-17, when he went to Adelaide. He returned to Brisbane in 1932 and again took an active interest till his death in 1938.

FREDERICK BENNETT, a school teacher, was elected in February 1895 and has been a member ever since, an unequalled record of 64 years. He was made Honorary Life Member in 1944, but insisted on paying his annual subscription until he had completed 60 years. He was secretary 1909-14, councillor 1936, and trustee since 1927. He regularly attended meetings while he lived in Brisbane, taking an active part in discussions. Bennett's first paper to the Society, "Notes on a Collection of Permo-Carboniferous Fossils from Banana", was read for him in 1895 by R. L. Jack. He recalls (in litt.) that Jack was very helpful to him in his early geological investigations in central Queensland. He became one of the first students at the new University and obtained his B.Sc. in 1915.

JOHN BROWNLIE HENDERSON, Government Analyst, described on his election as president in 1905 as "a lively and useful Councillor", served in all 12 years on the Council and is the only person to have been three times president, holding this office again in 1911 and 1930.

J. W. SUTTON, whose interest in the applied physical sciences has been mentioned, was an ironmaster, of the firm of Hipwood and Sutton, Kangaroo Point. He was a member 1877-1913, when he died, councillor of the Philosophical Society 1882-3 and of the Royal Society 1883, 1900-02, vice-president 1898, and president 1899.

ACCOMMODATION

Meetings were held at first in the library of the Museum in William Street (now Public Library). In 1886 there was talk of building a simple iron building, but this idea was evidently abandoned. In 1888 the Minister for Public Instruction granted temporary use of a room in the Education Office, Edward Street, on 5 evenings a month for meetings and as a reading room. Council members each loaned £3 to furnish the room. After a year the Department moved and Council then accepted the offer of the Pharmacy Board to use their rooms, but in 1892 the Board gave up two of its rooms and the Society met thereafter at the Museum.

In November 1894 a meeting was held in rooms occupied by the A.A.A.S. in Wakefield's building, Edward Street, and subsequently the Society rented these, subletting them occasionally to other bodies. The cost was 10s. per week and 9 members each contributed £1 to a rent fund. In February 1899 another move was made to the Technical College, Ann Street, where a room was available for a small rent and the lecture room was granted when required. Though endeavours were made to obtain other accommodation, the Society remained at the College until the beginning of 1912 when it transferred to University premises.

THE LIBRARY

By September 1885, library accommodation was already a problem; three months later H. H. A. Russell was appointed the first librarian, but in 1887 it was still impossible to give members free access to the library. On the move to a room at the Education Office in 1888, the librarian, C. Hedley, and secretary, Shirley, spent a considerable part of their holiday classifying, arranging, and cataloguing the library, which was then to be open every Friday. By 1889 there were 65 institutes on the exchange list. The frequent moves made by the Society were unsatisfactory, and as early as 1891 it was reported "The constant removal from place to place has been the means of seriously damaging the library and property of the Society".

In 1899 the library was moved to the Technical College and in 1900, with the aid of a Government subsidy, 350 volumes were bound and glass doors fitted to the book shelves. In 1906 a deputation led by Dr. A. J. Turner interviewed the Chief Secretary who suggested a room might be made available at the Public Library and the binding (estimated at £70) done if the Society's Library was made available to the public. He later put forward a definite proposal and in June 1907 the Society decided to accept it on condition the library was under supervision of the Public Librarian, but nothing further was reported. Following negotiations in 1910, it was agreed that the library (which had to be shifted to another room) be open to the Technical College students under the supervision of the College Librarian. Mr. and Miss Eglinton had undertaken the cataloguing of the library in 1907.

In July 1911 a subcommittee was appointed to arrange with the Senate of the University for the housing and joint use of the Society's library. At the Council Meeting in September 1911, the trustees (J. Cameron, A. Norton, and A. J. Thynne) attended to discuss the

terms and they considered it absolutely essential to their approval that the Society should retain ownership of the library. (This seems to have been the only time the trustees have been called on for a vital decision.) The basis of the joint agreement drawn up between the University and the Society was: The University to allow the books to be stored in an accessible manner on its premises; to have the use of the library; to provide a meeting place for monthly and council meetings; Members of the Society to have access to the library at reasonable hours (day or night). The University librarian to take charge of the books, keep an up to date catalogue and correct record of all books borrowed. The catalogue and register to be always accessible to the Society's librarian, who was to be responsible for receipt and acknowledgment of exchanges and issue of *Proceedings*. The Society to see to removal, binding, upkeep, additions and insurance of the library.

It was made clear that should the University be shifted or the Society ever decide to move elsewhere, the Society was to be free to transfer its own library on giving fair notice of its intention, the present agreement to last only so long as agreeable to the Society. The library was moved to the University early in 1912.

FINANCE AND PUBLICATIONS

Annual subscription was £1 1s. 0d. and Life Membership £5 5s. 0d., later raised to £10 10s. 0d.; an entrance fee of £1 1s. 0d. for those joining after 1884 was suspended in 1896 but reinstituted later. In 1884 an honorarium of £25 was paid to the secretary for his services connected with the society's establishment, and the same in 1885 for his literary labours in editing the *Proceedings*. There was no Government subsidy until 1899, and printing was done by commercial firms since permission could not be obtained to have it done by the Government Printer.

At first papers were reported on by the secretary to the Council but this was soon altered to a subcommittee of three. Vol. I, Part I of the *Proceedings* was ready for distribution in May 1884, and by July, 24 societies were on the exchange list. Vol. I, *Proceedings* for 1884, contains 198 pages, 36 papers, 11 short scientific notes, and 19 lithographed plates, and Vol. II is comparable; both appeared promptly. Preparation of drawings was charged to the Society and cost £21 for Vol. II. Not until 1899 did contributors begin to prepare their own drawings. These volumes were no doubt very good for starting exchanges but were a serious drain on the finances. The balance was £141 in July 1884, £88 a year later, and Vol. III was delayed until August 1887 by lack of finance.

The annual report in July 1887 showed nearly £200 arrears outstanding and a balance of £89, with liabilities in excess of it. A special meeting recommended employment of a professional collector who got in some of the arrears at a remuneration of 10%. By September the liabilities had been paid and there was a balance of £45. In January 1890, after bills for Vols. IV and V had come in, there was a balance of about £6 in hand and about £120 owing on printing. This seems to have been the Society's all-time low. Subscriptions to journals were discontinued and members were asked to make a special contribution

to allow all outstanding accounts to be paid; this was achieved by July 1891 when there was a balance of £7. Tenders were accepted for advertisements on the covers of Vol. VII, but these did not appear. A list of those in arrears was tabled at each meeting. The improvement in finances was attributed largely to the secretary, W. Ryott-Maughan, whose responsibility it seems to have been to collect subscriptions, and Council soon afterwards voted him an allowance of £25 for Society expenses.

1892 and 1893 were years of financial crisis in the community, and Vol. IX for 1892-3 contains only the Annual Report and Presidential Address. From 1893 on there was a small debit or credit each year until 1899, when the Chief Secretary placed the sum of £50, together with a subsidy of £1 for every £1 subscribed, at the disposal of the Society. The Society received £150 in 1900 and almost that in 1901 at the end of which there was a balance of £152. A grant of £50 was received for 1902 and 1903, after which it was discontinued, and by December 1905 excess of credits over debits was only £6. *Proceedings*, though sometimes only one part of a volume, were published each year; some members contributed to the cost of their papers.

One must admire the courage and faith of those early Councils who, in the face of such serious financial difficulties, never faltered in keeping the ordinary affairs of the Society running smoothly.

SECTIONS

A Field Naturalists Section was inaugurated in October 1886. The sectional committee consisted of F. M. Bailey, chairman, J. Bancroft, L. J. Byrne, and J. H. Simmonds, with H. Tryon and G. Watkins as joint secretaries. By July 1887 they had held 3 evening and 19 field meetings, including 2 long weekends to Helidon and Mt. Mistake, the average attendance at outings being 8 or 9. They engaged mainly in botany, led by F. M. Bailey, who never missed a meeting. Shirley gave a series of weekly lectures on structural botany to meet the wants of beginners and 9 or 10 members attended these. Bailey, Shirley, Watkins, and Simmonds published reports on plants collected. By 1889 the Section had collected over 800 species of plants from the Brisbane district alone on their fortnightly excursions. In 1891 they held only two long excursions to the Yandina and Eudlo Scrubs; in 1892 J. W. Sutton twice took them up the river in his steamer and some geology and zoology was included. In 1894 they spent Easter at Eumundi, but the section ceased functioning in 1895. It seems to have been one of the happiest and most informal of the Society's activities.

A Microscopical Section, begun in 1896 under the leadership of C. J. Pound and W. Byram, held several meetings.

PUBLIC ACTIVITIES

The first was a fund raising effort organised by the secretary, Tryon, to assist Mr. H. O. Forbes' explorations in New Guinea. When the fund closed in June 1886, £143 10s. 6d. had been collected, the Society contributing £10 10s. 0d. This was the only Society in the colonies to try to help Forbes, and he had to abandon his expedition.

In November 1886, Tryon represented the Society at the preliminary meeting in Sydney regarding formation of an Australian Association for the Advancement of Science. The Society provided £10 to meet his expenses. He was also appointed the Society's delegate to the first A.A.A.S. meeting in 1888 and the Society has continued to appoint delegates to A.A.A.S. and its successor A.N.Z.A.A.S. ever since. The Royal, Medical, and Geographical Societies arranged a conversazione for the Brisbane meeting in 1895.

In 1889 a circular was prepared asking for information about the aborigines from explorers, squatters, and others; the reports were to be collated and published, but there is a record of only one being returned.

In 1890 delegates from the Royal and Royal Geographical Societies met as a committee on the Swedish-Australian Antarctic Expedition question, but decided they had insufficient information to ask for public subscriptions.

In 1893 T. Illidge read a paper on the lung fish (*Neoceratodus forsteri* (Kreffl)), giving his observations of it on the Burnett River. Following this, a deputation from the Society (R. L. Jack, president, J. Bancroft and D. O'Connor) suggested to the Colonial Secretary introduction of these fish to the Brisbane River and Enoggera Waterworks. A subcommittee then drew up a scheme which was submitted to the Colonial Secretary, who in December 1894 made £50 available to the Society for the project, the Railway Commissioner also promising to give every assistance. The Council entrusted the task to Daniel O'Connor, a retired bank manager keenly interested in fish acclimatisation, who gave his services gratuitously. The railways provided free passes for him and his fish tanks. In September 1896, when the task was completed, 109 lung fish had been caught in the Mary River, mainly by natives, and 69 liberated in the North Pine River, a lagoon near the Albert River, a dam communicating with the Brisbane River at Cressbrook, Enoggera Reservoir, the Condamine River, and Upper Coomera River. The total cost, £55 6s. 10d., was paid by the Government. In 1900 O'Connor reported to the Society that small lung fish had been taken in the Condamine and Coomera Rivers.

In 1895 Council approached the Government for a reduction on the 25% import duty on microscopes and in 1896 was able to report that the duty had been removed altogether.

The Society was invited by the British Prime Minister to appoint a representative to the International Congress of Zoology in Cambridge in 1898 and Saville-Kent consented to act.

In 1904 the Society was asked to nominate three members to vote for the election of members of the Technical College Council. A Nature Study Exhibition, organised with the help of the Teachers' Union, was held at the Technical College for four nights in January 1906. Thirteen schools entered competitions for the best collections of minerals, shells, timbers, etc., for which certificates were awarded. The Museum and Government Departments provided non-competitive exhibits and there were two half-hour lectures each evening.

In 1909 the Society with various other bodies planned to hold a *conversazione* with an exhibition of historical scientific apparatus to mark the Golden Jubilee of the State, but the date of the function was twice postponed and it was finally abandoned. A Committee was appointed in 1909 to collect official information on prevention of insect and rat-borne diseases, and in 1911 the Committee at the request of the Department of Public Health met its officers on the mosquito question.

THE UNIVERSITY

In his Presidential Address in 1885, J. Bancroft urged the need for a teaching University, saying that Government House would be a fine site for it. De Vis' Presidential Address (not printed) in 1888 was on the need for a University in Queensland, and Saville-Kent's, the following year, advocated a Marine Biological Station to be associated with it.

In 1896, at the request of the Queensland University Extension, the Society extended its patronage to a course of lectures by S. B. J. Skertchly, and a similar request was received concerning lectures by Professor David in 1909.

In 1906, A. Norton and W. J. Byram were appointed delegates to a forthcoming University Congress in Brisbane, and in 1907 the Society opened a fund for subscriptions to the University Fund, to which, by January 1908, £558 had been contributed by members with the promise of further contributions and endowment of a scholarship.

CONCLUSION

Over the years the membership of the Society has changed. The clergy, judges, solicitors, pastoralists, parliamentarians, and businessmen are now few or absent. The era of the great amateurs in science is past, but one cannot help feeling that an Albert Norton today would still be able to find many potential members whom the Society has been unable to reach. It should still be one of its major functions to bring together the scientist and the layman.

What of the future? The same old problems will undoubtedly recur—accommodation, a permanent home for the library, publication costs, membership. The lesson history gives is one of courage. These are not new battles, but have been fought and won before, and can be won again by those with faith in the future of the Society.

In his Presidential Address in 1872, Sir James Cockle said, "I doubt not that our Society will survive . . . untoward periods and that its earlier members will one day be recognised as men who laboured earnestly and successfully to sustain and perpetuate the oldest scientific institution in the colony." We have here recognised them and their successors as such. May the President 100 years hence be able to say the same of us and our successors.

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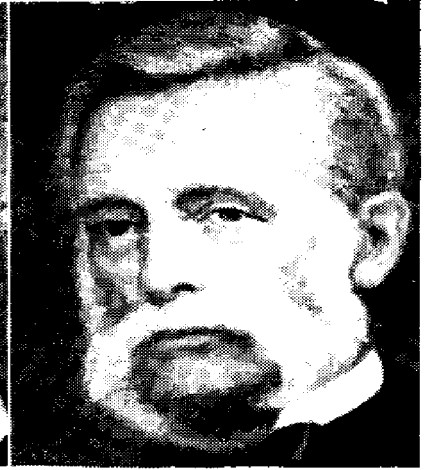
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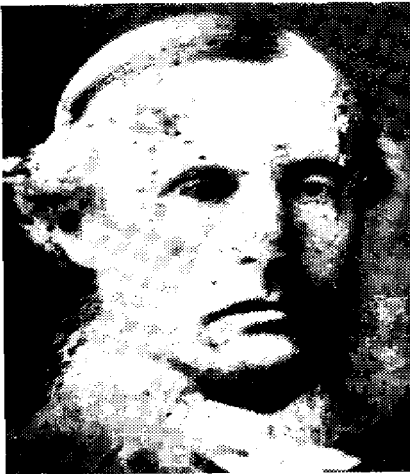
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S. DIGGLES



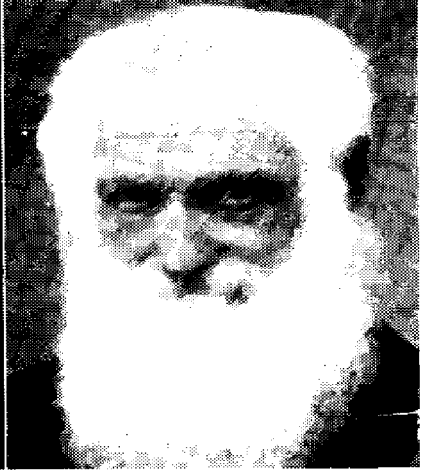
C. COXEN



J. COCKLE



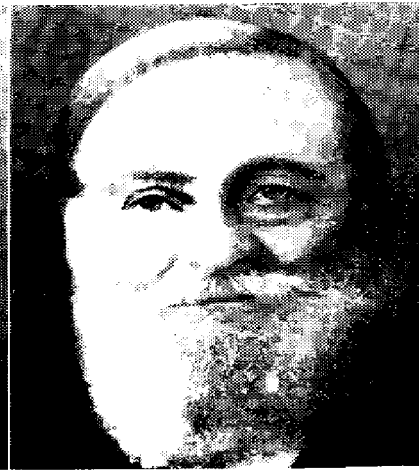
W. PETTIGREW



J. N. WAUGH



J. BANCROFT



A. C. GREGORY



C. W. DE VIS