

inspect and examine into—(a) the general scope and method or instruction given to the students as regards lectures, work in the laboratories, in the dairy, and out of doors upon the farm; (b) the condition and management of the dairy and workshop; (c) the condition and management of the farm lands and the implements, grass crops, and stock upon the farm; (d) the annual farm estimates of income and expenditure; (e) to advise as to any changes in the subjects or method of instruction which may seem to them desirable; (f) to institute or conduct any examination of students in practical agriculture, or in any other subject they may think fit; (g) to advise as to any agricultural experiments which they think should be carried out; (h) to advise as to any improvements which in their opinion would add to the utility of the Agricultural College as an institution for the promotion of practical and theoretical knowledge upon agricultural subjects; and (i) generally upon all matters relating to the Agricultural College or farm. (2.) To report upon all or any of the above matters to the Board of Governors of Canterbury College.

3. ANNUAL REPORT OF THE CURATOR OF THE MUSEUM.

SIR,—

Canterbury Museum, 1st July, 1891.

I have the honour to submit my annual report on the progress made and the work done in the Museum since the 1st July, 1890.

Antiquity Room.—The collections in this room have been redistributed and rearranged to a considerable extent, but the present condition of the room is, in some degree, temporary, as I have not had funds to carry out in their entirety my intentions. The changes I have made and contemplate to continue will, in my opinion, contribute to the more advantageous study of the collection here. It seemed to me that all the objects of prehistoric and ahistoric times (either ancient or modern) ought to be associated together; and, on the other hand, that those illustrative of civilizations of a higher standard, whose history has been handed down in writing (on stone or paper, in books) should be associated together, since the exigencies of space in our Museum do not permit of their being exhibited in one room, or in proximity to each other. In the ethnological room the objects illustrative of the life, arts, and handiwork of ahistoric people, and those of a primitive civilisation (though they may have possessed, in some instances,—as of the Javanese—written records), had already been brought together. Considering it therefore more logical to associate the collections representing North American, Mexican, and Peruvian ethnology—all of them belonging to a primitive civilisation—with those representing corresponding states of advancement, I have brought these parts of the collection from the antiquity-room down to the ethnological room. It is difficult to decide whether the tools and handiwork of Palæolithic and Neolithic man should be arranged most fittingly in the palæontological room, or in the ethnological room, in juxtaposition to the rude implements of peoples still in their stone age. I have considered it more instructive and better suited for comparative study that they should be exhibited in the ethnological room. Their places have been filled with examples of modern glass and pottery, which were in the ethnological room, and they are now near to the art collections, of which they are a branch. I hope funds may soon be available for completing these arrangements.

Art Gallery.—Several new pictures have been deposited by the Canterbury Society of Arts, but no additions have been made of which the Museum can claim the property.

Foreign Bird Gallery.—In this room some of the mollusca exhibited in the end cases were damaged and destroyed by the fall of plaster from the roof.

Mammal Room.—There have been few changes in this room. The skeleton of the Irish elk and the cast of the tusks of the Siwalik elephant have been removed to the palæontological room. The case which I reported last year as having been erected in this room remains still unfinished; but if the funds permit it will be, I hope, completed before December.

Ethnological Room.—This room has been rearranged to admit of the collections from the antiquity room, whose removal I have spoken of above. Besides the glass and pottery taken upstairs I have also removed the collection of minerals, gems, inlaid stone work, and placed them in the room entirely devoted to mineralogy. For the present the arrangement of this room, on the plan I have commenced, can be completed only when the necessary funds are available. I have had also some hesitation about proceeding further till I have learned whether the Museum Committee will sanction the proposals I have made in my last report, as to the transference of the New Zealand collections into the ethnological room, where they will have the prominence and space which ought to be given to them. A few additions have been made to the collection, but of no great importance.

New Zealand Room.—There have not been any very important additions to this room; a few birds and fishes having been added, chiefly to our duplicate collection. Twelve excellent paintings of New Zealand plants, by Miss M. Stoddart, have been framed and hung in the gallery, and have proved of great interest, if one may judge by the number of visitors who examine them. Several new photographs have also been hung. The geological side of the gallery has been fitted with seventy-two new shelves, and the greater part of the mounting and labelling of the fossils has been accomplished. The smaller specimens of woods have been mounted on supports and affixed to the pillars round the gallery. It has been impossible to find room for the large slabs that used to be exhibited in what is now the palæontological room.

Maori House.—Only a few additions have been made to this collection. Numerous specimens have been offered during the past year for purchase at very reasonable prices, but it has been impossible to find the necessary funds to purchase them, and they have passed into the hands of private collectors.

Mineralogical Room.—This is the room formerly devoted to the exhibition of osteological specimens. It is now entirely devoted to mineralogy. After a considerable amount of thought and contrivance the room has been to a great extent refitted and refurnished. A new wall-case has been