

PHILOSOPHICAL INSTITUTE OF CANTERBURY.

FIRST MEETING. 4th March, 1880.

Professor J. VON HAAST, Vice-President, in the chair.

New Member.—Dr. Guthrie.

No papers were read.

SECOND MEETING (ADDITIONAL) 18th March, 1880.

E. DOBSON, President, in the chair.

New Members.—Professor F. W. Hutton, J. Hay.

ADDRESS.

The President read his opening address "On the Progress of Applied Science in Canterbury."

ABSTRACT.

He reviewed the development of public works in the Provincial District of Canterbury, and with reference to railways discussed the merits of the broad and narrow gauges, expressing himself strongly in favor of the former. He reviewed the methods adopted for ordinary road making, surveys, the proposal for the irrigation of the Canterbury Plains and the conservation of the rivers, the water supply, and the drainage of the towns, street tramways, gas lighting, harbour works, and the adaptation of improved agricultural machinery; and, in his concluding remarks, he pointed out that the successful colonization of New Zealand has been in a great measure due to the scientific element which has pervaded the councils of its rulers. He considered it important that this influence should be recognised, so that in the development of our educational institutions scientific training may receive its full share of attention instead of being simply tolerated or altogether set aside in favour of the study of dead languages. The study of Greek and Latin, however valuable as a system of mental training, as affording models for the expression of thought, and as a foundation for a thorough knowledge of the languages of western Europe, has no further result as a preparation for the active duties of life in that world into which man has been sent "to eat his bread in the sweat of his brow," nor can it for a moment be seriously contended that the study of the licentious obscenities of the Roman poets can have other than a degrading influence on the minds of our youths entering upon manhood.

The excellence of the literature of the Greeks and Romans was the natural reflection of their national greatness. Their orators did not rise to fame through writing nonsense verses, nor did their authors perfect their style by translating unmeaning common-places into the disused languages of fallen nations. They spoke and wrote out of the fullness of their hearts of the stirring events passing before their eyes and of the national life in