

**94th ANNUAL MEETING  
PRESIDENTIAL ADDRESS**

H. D. Smith

October 17, 1955

As the ninety-third year of the Nova Scotian Institute of Science draws to a close, it is my duty to report on the activities of this organization during the past twelve months.

According to custom the President's address opens with a reference to members of the Institute who have passed away during the year. Although there is only one death to report at this time, yet in that loss a most distinguished gentleman has been taken from us. I refer, of course, to Frederick W. Sexton, B.Sc., D.Sc., the founder and for many years the President of the Nova Scotia Technical College. He became an ordinary member December 18, 1903, and was made an honorary member February 10, 1947. In the Institute, as in all the activities he followed, Dr. Sexton had the welfare of Nova Scotia and of Nova Scotians always at heart. It was with deep regret that we received the news of his demise.

At the last annual meeting the membership stood at 285. During the past year our total membership has increased slightly. In Halifax we gained 17 new members, and dropped 26 names from our rolls for non-payment of fees. The Valley chapter at present has 35 full members, two of whom are life members, and two are student members. The Valley membership exhibited a substantial increase during the year.

We have held one business meeting, one extraordinary and seven ordinary meetings. Twenty-three papers were presented at the seven ordinary meetings. They may be classified as follows:

Biology	5	Pharmacology	2
Chemistry	6	Physiology	2
Biochemistry	3	Electrical Engineering	1
Physics	3	Civil Engineering	1

Ordinary meetings were uniformly well attended, the average number present being 45, with a high of 59.

The Valley Chapter held five meetings during the year, one being a combined business and ordinary meeting. At these meetings seven papers in a number of fields were presented.

Although the membership of the Institute has shown a gratifying increase since the end of World War II and the average attendance at ordinary meetings has almost doubled since pre-war days nevertheless it is doubtful if the increases noted are commensurate with the increase in the number of scientists in Halifax and surrounding areas during the past fifteen years.

It behooves us, therefore, to see what can be done to achieve a greater membership and to improve the average attendance at ordinary meetings. Various incentives have been employed in the past as one finds on perusing old minutes and reports of annual meetings. In pre-war days refreshments were served at the close of ordinary meetings but a check of attendance shows no substantial increase resulted. Perhaps the wrong type of refreshment was served! Consideration might be given to the use of a membership committee to contact prospective members and to urge present members to attend as many meetings as possible.

In my opinion an effort should be made to encourage our associate members in other parts of the Province to present the results of their investigations at our meetings. I believe that the offer still stands to assist in the payment of travelling expenses of any who might journey to Halifax for this purpose. The Valley Chapter has solved the problem in the Annapolis area but what can be done in the Truro, Amherst, Antigonish and Sydney regions?

When one realizes that tonight the Institute embarks on its 94th year one wonders whether some thought should not be given to what might be undertaken to celebrate the centenary of our society in a fitting manner. One suggestion I would put forward is that a symposium of some kind be held in Halifax to commemorate the birth of our flourishing organization.

With the resumption of the postwar exchanges, the library has continued to grow rapidly. Approximately 2,000 items come to the Institute each year. Because of greatly increased printing, costs, a number of societies have discontinued sending their publications on an exchange basis. However, the Nova Scotia Research Foundation is now carrying these publications on a subscription basis. The societies referred to are:

Royal Society of Canada  
Royal Society of Arts  
Royal Society of London

Geographical Society of New York  
Carlsbad Laboratory-Chemical and Physiological Series

Since 1948 there has been a consistent policy of book-binding and each year over 50 volumes of Institute material have been bound. As a result the publications of the most important societies are now in the library of the Nova Scotia Research Foundation. It is the practice to bind one new set each year; the demand for the material and the completeness of the series being the deciding factors in determining the selection of a particular journal. It is often possible to obtain missing numbers from the United States Book Exchange in Washington, D. C. and it is hoped that by using this source one or two of the more important German sets may be completed and prepared for binding. When the National Central Library of London was visited this summer by Miss E. Campbell, the Foundation's librarian, arrangements were made to secure missing parts of journals, that might be unavailable on this continent.

Certain Institute material, which is not in great demand, is carefully packaged, labeled and stored on the top floor of the Nova Scotia Technical College. This material is arranged so that any journal may be found quite easily. Bookplates have been designed and printed and are in use for all publications. This keeps the Institute collection completely identified.

The National Research Council has been collecting data for the publication of a National Catalogue of Scientific Journals and is now in the process of checking and preparing the cards for the printing of this catalogue. Our holdings are listed with them, and a number of loan requests have come recently for some of the foreign journals of the Institute library. When the catalogue is finally issued, many more such interlibrary loans will undoubtedly be made.

We have here tonight copies of the latest "List of Exchanges Currently Received" to distribute to you and also, as a bonus, a copy of the bookplate designed by Miss Campbell three years ago.

In closing, I would like to pay tribute to the excellence of the work of our various officers and Council. Individually and collectively, they deserve our sincere thanks for their efforts on behalf of the Institute. Personally I deem it a great honor to have had the privilege of serving as your President.