

PROCEEDINGS  
OF  
THE CANADIAN INSTITUTE.

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EXTRACT FROM THE ANNUAL ADDRESS OF THE PRESIDENT, A. B. MACALLUM,  
M.B., PH.D.

(Delivered November 7th, 1896.)

The success which the Council has achieved during the past session in the management of the Canadian Institute has enabled the Editing Committee to formulate an improved method of publication, a method which is more in accord with the present requirements of Science. In the past our volumes of "Transactions" appeared at irregular intervals, and in some cases very long after the papers published in them had been read before the Institute. Speedy publication for scientific papers of value is a great desideratum. No investigator relishes the prospect of having his results held over for an inconveniently long time, with the chance that when they are published they may be out of touch with the literature of the subject appearing between the date of presentation and that of publication. In this case, also, he must face the risk of his results being anticipated by another worker in the same field. He, therefore, looks for speedy publication of his papers, immediately they are completed, and those means are sought which offer this advantage.

In consequence of these considerations, and desiring to attract scientific papers of merit to the Institute, the Editing Committee has decided to change the present mode of publication. It will not affect the "Transactions," which will be published as heretofore, but at the end of the Session, and containing only carefully selected papers worthy of publication in extenso. The point of departure is in the institution of "Proceedings," one number of which is to appear every two months during the session, and each will contain the short papers, and the abstracts of others read before the Institute in the preceding interval. This will ensure speedy publication, and at the same time put a premium upon brevity, while it will enable the Editing Committee to exercise greater freedom in the choice of papers for the volume of the "Transactions." If the Institute is to maintain its large list of Exchanges, it must strive for a high standard in the papers which it publishes. Having had in the past but one mode of publication, it was natural that the Editing Committee should have difficulties to contend with. Papers which contained matter of interest, from a scientific, historical, or other point of view, but were of inordinate length, were frequently offered for publication. These had to be accepted outright or rejected summarily. There was no middle course. With the plan now adopted, the Editing Committee can offer, for very short papers of value, such an opportunity for speedy publication as will considerably offset the sacrifices made for brevity. I trust that the men of science in the Dominion will avail themselves of the advantages now offered, and that the new venture will be a success.