

which they have not hitherto been sent. Only a fortnight ago, for instance, the Hon. Secretary received some very interesting volumes from the Imperial University of Japan, at Tokio, with an expression of the wish that the Transactions should be regularly sent to that institution." More than six hundred copies are thus distributed every year, and that they do not lie unread on dusty shelves is shown by the best of evidence—the extent to which they are quoted in works dealing with the themes of which they treat.

Apart from its relations to the centres of learning and research in other lands, and its attractive potency on the scattered circles of local intellectual effort in the Dominion, the Royal Society plays a not unimportant rôle in connection with the State. This phase of its usefulness (which has hardly yet, perhaps, been allotted due significance) was very clearly illustrated in a paper read by the late Dr. Alpheus Todd, C.M.G., before the Society not long before his death. Citing the example of New South Wales, which was the first of the British Colonies to establish a Royal Society, he commended the statesmen of that great country for availing themselves of the co-operation of learned and capable advisers to advance the public welfare in matters that lay distinctly apart from the domain of party politics. In so doing, however, they were simply following the precedent of the motherland, which had long assigned to the Royal Society of London certain duties of a scientific nature which it was peculiarly qualified to discharge. The application of the same principle in Canada was a logical sequel of the formation of such a body. The same subject was very appositely though indirectly treated by the first President in his second address (1883), wherein he outlined the progress already achieved mainly through the Geological and Natural History Survey and the provisions for science teaching in the Universities. A perceptible stimulus was given to the scientific movement in Canada, both in its practical and scientific aspect, by the departure of the Bri-