

A CENTURY
OF
SCIENTIFIC
PROGRESS



CENTENARY
VOLUME

ROYAL SOCIETY
OF
NEW SOUTH
WALES



A CENTURY OF SCIENTIFIC PROGRESS

**THE CENTENARY VOLUME OF THE ROYAL
SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES**

A HISTORY OF SEVERAL ASPECTS OF AUSTRALIAN
SCIENTIFIC DEVELOPMENT, WITH PARTICULAR
REFERENCE TO NEW SOUTH WALES.

THIS VOLUME COMMEMORATES THE ONE-
HUNDREDTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE GRANTING
OF THE ROYAL CHARTER TO THE ROYAL SOCIETY
OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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PREFACE



When, a century ago, the Royal Society of New South Wales assumed by Royal permission its present title, its members included men of vision convinced that successful development of this great and largely unknown continent could be achieved only with the aid of scientific enquiry and research. Accordingly, one of its aims, as expressed in its Constitution, was the encouragement of investigations directed to the proper utilization of Australia's natural resources and the knowledge of its Natural History. How steadfastly that ideal was pursued in subsequent years may be gathered from a perusal of the Society's publications. It should be a matter of pride, and indeed of inspiration, to its present members that the Society to which they belong played a worthy part in fostering scientific research and focusing it on studies calculated to promote the material well-being of the community and the good of mankind in general.

The Society is celebrating this epoch in its history in a very practical way by publication of the present volume. It portrays vividly and yet in matter-of-fact terms the State's progress over the last one hundred years in grappling with some of its major problems, and rightly emphasizes the vital contributions made by pure and applied science to its phenomenal growth. It is indeed a record of which we may all be very proud.

In an ever-changing world, scientific societies, like other human institutions, find it necessary to adapt themselves to changing conditions.

It may be confidently hoped that the Royal Society of New South Wales, true to the traditions of the past, will meet the challenge of the times and continue to play a significant role in the scientific life of the community.

A. R. Butler

Governor.

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THE ROYAL SOCIETY OF NEW SOUTH WALES

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