

At a special general meeting on May 6, 1816, it was agreed that they accept the offer of the upper part and basement of the house at a premium of 250 guineas, and at a rent of 150*l.* per annum, free of all taxes for two and a half years, being the remainder of the lease. It was reported that these premises contained a large room fit for a meeting room, and four other rooms well adapted for the collections and other public uses of the Society, besides rooms for the housekeeper and servants. The Society were to have occupation of the house from June.

In 1817, ten years after its foundation, the governing body of the Society consisted as follows :—

J. Macculloch, *president*; the Hon. H. G. Bennet, the Rt. Hon. Sir John Nicholl, Wm. Blake, and Henry Warburton, *vice-presidents*; Charles Stokes and H. J. Brooke, *secretaries*; A. B. Granville, *foreign secretary*; Daniel Moore and John Taylor, *treasurers*; and Arthur Aikin, Capt. T. F. Colby, H. T. Colebrooke, Sir Henry C. Englefield, G. B. Greenough, Henry Holland, A. Majendie, W. H. Pepys, E. W. Rundell, S. Solly, John Whishaw, and W. H. Wollaston, other members of the *Council*.

There were two treasurers during the years 1814–21; while later on, from 1823–26, there were three secretaries, Webster, the keeper of the Museum, acting with the two honorary secretaries.

Fitton, in reviewing the third volume of the Society's *Transactions*, observed :—

It has been remarked by critics that the want of education is sometimes of advantage to a man of genius, who is thus left free to the suggestions of invention, and is neither biassed in favour of erroneous maxims, nor deterred from the trial of his own powers by names of high authority. On this principle it is evident that the members of the Geological Society have derived great benefit from their want of systematical instruction. At the time of its formation there was, in fact, no English school of Mineralogy where they could imbibe either information or prejudice. They were neither Vulcanists nor Neptunists, nor Wernerians nor Huttonians, but plain men, who felt the importance of a subject about which they knew very little in detail; and,