

In subsequent years the numbers rose, though not without fluctuations, to a total of 459 in 1824, and 471 in 1825 (including honorary and foreign members). Of the ordinary members, those residing during any sixty days or more in any year within twenty miles of London, were resident members, who paid three guineas a year or a composition of thirty guineas. Others were non-resident, and paid an entrance fee of ten guineas, but no other contribution.

On December 3, 1819, the president, G. B. Greenough, laid before the Council a general statement on the wants and resources of the Society. An abstract of this was given in the Minute Book, and referred to as 'the president's Address to the Council.'

He recommended the formation of a committee to report on the Museum ; observing that its contents should be divided into two parts—one for beginners, the other for proficients. In the part of the Museum for beginners he would have a set of simple minerals, fossils, &c., also 'a series to show what is meant by substances graduating into one another,' models, a case of geological tools and instruments, &c. In the part for proficients he would arrange the foreign rock specimens, also 'specimens intended to ascertain the correctness of disputed facts in geology.' These latter should not be permanent, but be disposed of by gift, sale, or exchange when no longer required.

In the history of any society periods of comparative dulness are likely to alternate with those of brilliant discovery and animated debate. Such changes may be experienced during a session, and when we come to contrast present with past geological meetings, our verdict need not be wholly unfavourable to present conditions with the increasing dryness of detail: so much depends on the individuals who take part in the proceedings. So early as 1821, it was remarked by Leonard Horner (in a letter dated April 10): 'I went to the Geological Society, which seems to me to have got into very feeble hands,