

others, and their friends.' It was contended that 'if the Society proposes to *encourage* geology, and discriminate upon subjects brought under its notice, it should not virtually sanction the publication of communications, to the merits of which they do not give their entire assent, by presenting them to the public without comment.'¹

'On the suggestion of many of our correspondents' the editor addressed a letter to the Council of the Geological Society, in which was advocated 'the adoption of the method practised among many societies abroad, of printing, appended to the papers read, a summary of the discussions which ensued.'

In reply the following letter was received² :—

Sir,—I am directed by the Council of the Geological Society of London to acknowledge the receipt of your letter, dated the — day of —, and to inform you that it is contrary to the long-established and approved practice of the Geological Society to permit, or in any way sanction, the publication of the discussions which take place at their evening meetings, or any comment thereupon; and the Council have seen, with extreme regret, in the numbers of *The Geologist* to which you have referred them, that you have allowed allusions to those discussions to be inserted in those publications.

I have the honour to be, Sir,

Your obedient servant,

(Signed) WM. J. HAMILTON, Sec.

William John Hamilton (1805–67) in early life entered the diplomatic service, and was M.P. from 1841 to 1847. He was author of 'Researches in Asia Minor, Pontus, and Armenia,' two vols., 1842. He devoted much time to the interests of the Society, being three times secretary, once foreign secretary, and twice president: terms of service which amounted in all to nearly thirty years. His manner was somewhat pompous, and repellent to those who did not know him intimately.

It was not until the year 1868 that the printing of

¹ *Geologist*, i. 1842, p. 162.

² *Ibid.* pp. 195, 227.