

inorganic, world was developed under the operation of similar laws.'¹ It was a work of great literary merit, but the author lacked the intimate biological knowledge necessary for the proper exposition of his evolutionary notions. The authorship, long surmised to be that of Robert Chambers (1802-71), was not publicly announced until 1884. Chambers took much interest in geology, and was author in 1848 of a work entitled 'Ancient Seamargins, as Memorials of Changes in the Relative Level of Sea and Land.' In later years he became a member of the Council of the Society.

When the office of curator and librarian to the Society became vacant on the retirement in 1844 of Edward Forbes, the Council, 'out of the considerable number of deserving candidates,' resolved to appoint as chief of the permanent staff D. T. Ansted, Fellow of Jesus College, Cambridge, and professor of Geology in King's College, London. At the same time they made considerable changes in the nature of the duties. Ansted was to be vice-secretary, and to edit the publications of the Society. In the course of the year 1845 his duties were further defined: he was to have custody of all MS. papers, and to attend the apartments of the Society every Monday, Wednesday, and Friday, from two to five o'clock, from November 1 to June 30, and during the other four months of the year at such times as the Council should determine, but not exceeding three days a week, or three hours a day.

A librarian and curator of the Museum was to be separately appointed, and James de Carle Sowerby was chosen in 1846 to occupy this post, also on partial duty; this provision being made in order that he might retain the office of secretary to the Botanical Society. He resigned after a short service; and indeed the plan of engaging officers to give only portions of certain days or of each week to the work of the Society proved unsatisfactory.

¹ See 'Memoir of William and Robert Chambers,' by Dr. William Chambers, 1893, pp. 391-93.