

fossil botany, and contributed to the Palæontographical Society a Monograph on the Structure of Fossil Plants found in the Coal-measures. Another ardent worker, W. C. Williamson, to whom reference has already been made, was never a Fellow of the Society, but he was awarded the Wollaston medal in 1890 for his researches on the structure of coal-plants. In 1870, and for many subsequent years, Mr. William Carruthers represented botanical science on the Council. He directed his attention to the plants of the Coal-measures, but more particularly to those of the Secondary formations.

In 1847 James Nicol, F.R.S.E., was appointed assistant secretary to the Society, in the room of Professor Ansted, who had resigned; and in the following year J. de Carle Sowerby gave up the curatorship, as the Council had regretfully come to the conclusion that they could not afford to expend more than 50*l.* a year on the care of the Museum. Nicol, in 1849, was appointed professor of Geology in Queen's College, Cork, but he continued for a while to hold office and edit the *Quarterly Journal*. In 1850 Mr. T. Rupert Jones was appointed assistant secretary, librarian, and curator.

During the presidency of Sir Charles Lyell in 1849, H.R.H. Prince Albert of Saxe-Coburg and Gotha, K.G., F.R.S., who had been proposed as a Fellow on April 4, was admitted on May 30.

Dr. Henry Woodward, who, as a youth, was present on this memorable occasion, has told that, when he arrived at Somerset House, Charlton, the house steward, was much excited, and, taking him on one side, observed, in a stage-whisper, that the Prince was coming to be admitted as a Fellow, and every '*stranger*' must have his name given in to the president. The room was full, and there were present on the front benches, Professor Sedgwick, Sir Roderick Murchison, Leonard Horner, Dr. Fitton, and many other distinguished Fellows, as well as Charles Babbage, and other notable visitors. The Prince sat on the