

from all countries. Again in 1864 the Council gave a further 'detailed account of the advantages they possess on their own premises for studying different branches of geological science.'

During the years 1863 to 1867 the two rooms of the Museum at Somerset House continued to be of service. They were utilised occasionally by Falconer, Lartet, and John Phillips; and the Lower Museum, more especially, was in winter time, with its cosy fires, a pleasant resort for conversation.

Nevertheless the Library had grown immensely in comparison with the Museum. The room of the assistant secretary, portions of the meeting room, of the tea-room and Council room, were gradually invaded by books: an arrangement that proved exceedingly inconvenient to the librarian and his assistants.

The Library in fact came to be recognised as of far greater importance to the Fellows than the Museum. It was not possible to offer sufficient remuneration for a curator of standing, and increasing difficulty was felt in keeping the collections named and in order. It was realised also that the want which the Society in its earlier days had supplied was no longer experienced.<sup>1</sup>

In their Report for 1869, the Council decided on the discontinuance of a general collection, and restricted the future additions to specimens illustrative of papers and to others received only from abroad.

In 1869 Mr. W. S. Dallas became assistant secretary, and for more than twenty-one years he served the Society with single-heartedness and zeal; his 'large treasures of knowledge and experience,' and 'his genial kindly ways,' gaining him the esteem and affection of every Fellow who made his acquaintance.<sup>2</sup>

Among the members of Council at this time was P. Martin Duncan, a medical man, distinguished for his researches on Corals. In 1870 he became professor of

<sup>1</sup> 'The Geological Society and its Museum,' *Nature*, May 16, 1901; see also Address to Geol. Soc. by Sir John Evans, 1875.

<sup>2</sup> See obituary by Sir A. Geikie, in Address to Geological Society, 1891.