

House of the Society.¹ In 1904 a Standing Publication Committee was appointed, and the names are now printed on the cover of the *Quarterly Journal*.

The growth of this *Journal* and the expenses attending the publication have from time to time called forth presidential comments.

In his address for 1886 Professor Bonney drew attention to the need of terseness in the writing of papers. He further expressed the opinion that selection was rendered necessary, and that while the Geological Society would rightly print important papers, the interest of which was chiefly independent of any locality, those of which the interest was mainly local would find place more appropriately in the *Transactions* of a local society, whether in this country or abroad. Two years later Professor Judd commented on the subject, pointing out the undesirability of publishing immature and controversial papers, such 'preliminary notes' as constitute one phase of a long discussion.

Again, Dr. Blanford in his Address of 1889 said: 'No papers aid more in maintaining the high character of our *Journal* than those which give the general results of an extensive series of observations, with only such details as are essential in order to enable those results to be understood.'

There is much to be said both in favour of and against the above. Those who go over the ground described with a geological paper in hand want to know the precise spots where observations were made, and particulars of each section whence fossils were obtained. Not so the reader who desires only to imbibe the main conclusions; and it is almost impossible to please both classes of inquirers. Some detailed papers on stratigraphical palæontology or on petrology may be wholly unreadable to many Fellows, and yet be of the utmost interest to those who are working at the same subjects. What is most important is that all papers be so clearly expressed that the general

¹ *Quart. Journ. Geol. Soc.* lv. p. xi.