

and speculations regarding stones and fossils had been recorded by the philosophers of old in Greece and Rome.

Interest in the subject was renewed during the sixteenth century. Academies were then founded by the learned men of the time: that of Padua (1520) being regarded as the oldest scientific society, though not long-lived. There followed the Academy of Natural Science at Naples (1560), and the Accademia dei Lincei at Rome (1603).

In Britain, 'An Academy for the Studye of Antiquity and History' was founded in the fourteenth year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth (1572). It originated with Archbishop Parker, and the meetings were held, for nearly twenty years, at the house of Sir Robert Cotton. The society remained in existence until 1604, and it included among its members William Camden, Richard Carew, John Dodderidge, and John Stow. Efforts were subsequently made to resuscitate the society, but it 'remained, as it were, in abeyance.' The only mention of it occurs in Mr. Ashmole's Diary, where we have a memorandum that 'July 2, 1659, was the Antiquaries feast.' A revival of the Antiquarian Society took place in 1707, in weekly meetings at the Bear Tavern, in the Strand; it became definitely established in 1717, with William Stukeley as secretary, and it was incorporated as the 'Society of Antiquaries of London' in 1751.<sup>1</sup>

The Royal Society, initiated about the year 1645, was established as a learned society in 1660, and received its charter of incorporation as the 'Royal Society of London' in 1662.<sup>2</sup> It is the earliest chartered scientific society in this country.

During the seventeenth century, interest in subjects pertaining to what is now known as geology was fostered chiefly by antiquaries and topographers; while during the

<sup>1</sup> Introduction to vol. i. of the *Archæologia*. See also Sir John Evans, 'The Origin, Development and Aims of our Scientific Societies' (Address to Society of Arts), 1900.

<sup>2</sup> 'Record of the Royal Society of London,' 2nd ed. 1901.