

jun., and several others afterwards joined the society, which continued for twenty years.'¹ It is noteworthy that a number of these men were members of the Society of Friends. One of them, Luke Howard, was the distinguished meteorologist, and also chemist, to whom science was indebted in 1803 for the nomenclature of clouds, since generally adopted, and in 1833 for a work on 'The Climate of London.' He was elected F.R.S. in 1821.

Among the books formerly in the Library of the Museum of Practical Geology, and since transferred to the Science Library of the Victoria and Albert Museum, was the MS. Minute Book of the Proceedings of the British Mineralogical Society. From this we learn that at a meeting held in the Askesian Society's room at Plough Court on April 2, 1799—present: William Allen, W. H. Pepys, Alexander Tilloch, Richard Knight, and Wilson Lowry—it was 'Resolved that those present do form themselves into a society under the denomination of the British Mineralogical Society.' Laws and regulations to the extent of twenty-seven were framed at a subsequent meeting held on April 30. The number of members was not to exceed twenty. For the present none were to be admitted members 'but such as are able and willing to undertake a chemical analysis of a mineral substance.' Absentees were required to pay one shilling 'to be applied to the expenses of the society,' and 'members being absent for four nights successively, or neglecting the duties of a member, shall be considered to have resigned.' Mr. W. H. Pepys was chosen as secretary and treasurer. Before the close of the year, Arthur Aikin and C. R. Aikin joined the society; and during 1800 there were added Dr. William Babington, Richard Phillips, Martin Tupper (of Guy's Hospital),² and others.

¹ 'Life of William Allen,' vol. i. 1846, p. 26; see also *Phil. Mag.* vii. 1800, p. 355. The name Askesian was derived from the Greek *ἄσκησις*, signifying exercise or training.

² Elected F.R.S. in 1835; he was the father of the author of 'Proverbial Philosophy.'