

of Allen and Hanbury, pharmaceutical chemists. He was elected F.R.S. in 1807. He resigned his fellowship of the Geological Society in 1831.

WILLIAM BABINGTON, M.D. (1756-1833), of Aldermanbury, was born in Antrim, and in 1795 became physician to Guy's Hospital. He attained considerable fame as a medical man. In an obituary notice, Greenough, in 1834, pointed out that in many respects he was a remarkable man. He 'whom we have been accustomed to look to with a respect almost filial, attached himself in early life to a study of chemistry and mineralogy,' and he was author of two works on mineralogy (1795 and 1799). 'With a view to enable Count Bournon, of whom he had been a pupil, to publish his elaborate monograph on carbonate of lime, Dr. Babington, in 1807, invited to his house a number of gentlemen, the most distinguished for their zeal in the prosecution of mineralogical knowledge. A subscription was opened and the necessary sum readily collected. This object having been accomplished, other meetings of the same gentlemen took place for the joint purpose of friendly intercourse and mutual instruction. From such small beginnings sprang the Geological Society; and among the names of those by whose care and watchfulness it was supported during the early and most perilous crisis of its history, that of Dr. Babington must always stand conspicuous.'<sup>1</sup> Some of the meetings were held 'at the hour of seven in the morning, the only time of the day which Dr. Babington's professional engagements allowed him to devote to social enjoyments of this nature.'<sup>2</sup> In 1822 he was elected president, 'an office which he accepted in deference to the earnest wish of the members, and held for two years at great personal sacrifice.' During this period, 'and at his suggestion, was established the practice of submitting to immediate discussion the papers read at the table of the society.' His interest in geology was so enthusiastic that, in order 'to keep up with its rapid progress,' he took private lessons of Thomas Webster, after he left the presidential chair. This interest in the science was maintained until the closing year of his life, when he was seventy-seven years of age.

JAMES LEWIS, Count (Jacques-Louis, Comte) DE BOURNON, F.R.S. (1751-1825), of Wigmore Street, was an ardent student of mineralogy. He came to England after

<sup>1</sup> *Proc. Geol. Soc.* ii. p. 42.

<sup>2</sup> Whewell, *ibid.* iii. p. 65.