

The advantage which science has reaped from this independence of action and division of labour is now, indeed, admitted even by those who were opponents and have lived to see our success.

The matter has been recently referred to by a president of the Royal Society, Sir William Huggins, in his Address delivered in 1903 :—

The scientific world, as well as the Geological Society itself, have good reason to rejoice over the wise and far-seeing policy of its founders and original members, when they decided to leave the young Society free to grow and to develop its powers, untrammelled by any obligations to any other body—a course which the past progress of the Society, the eminent services which it has now for nearly a century rendered to the promotion of natural knowledge, and the scientific distinction and the wide influence which it possesses to-day, in the fullest degree justify and confirm.

Sir William Huggins adds that the question still remained open, of simultaneous duplicate publication of the more important scientific memoirs communicated directly to one or other of the special societies or to the Royal Society.¹

During the session 1809–10, the evening meetings commenced at half-past seven on the first and third Fridays of every month from November to June inclusive. On March 3, 1809, it was proposed to appoint a committee for the construction of mineralogical maps, models, &c. ; and on April 7 it was resolved :

‘That the construction of mineralogical maps, and the collection of drawings, models, sections of mines, &c., are well worthy the attention of the Geological Society, and cannot fail materially to promote the objects which they had in view in associating.

‘That there be forthwith appointed a committee, to be styled the Committee of Maps.’

¹ ‘Year-book of the Royal Society,’ 1904, pp. 192, 193, 196, 197 ; see also ‘The Royal Society ; or, Science in the State and in the Schools,’ by Sir W. Huggins, 1906, pp. 45, &c.