

however, surprising to learn from the Council's Report in 1837, that owing to the uninterrupted pressure of other business, no progress had been made during the previous year in the arrangement of the collections. In the following year they reported that the number of duplicate specimens was 'enormous.'

For these reasons assistance in the Museum had been asked for; and it is interesting and pathetic to learn that William Smith, LL.D., writing from Scarborough, February 3, 1838, offered himself as a candidate for the office of curator to the Museum. He was then in his sixty-ninth year.

On February 16, 1838, the Council expressed their opinion 'that the laborious and difficult duty of arranging and cataloguing the collections should devolve upon an officer whose time should be given to that single object; but the qualifications required in such an officer are so many and so rare, that though numerous candidates have presented themselves, no one has yet been appointed.'

In May of that year Searles V. Wood, then forty years of age, was appointed curator, but in consequence of ill-health he was compelled to retire in less than twelve months, much to the regret of the Council. In June of 1839, S. P. Woodward, then a youth not quite eighteen years of age, was appointed sub-curator, under Lonsdale; a position he owed to the recommendation of Sedgwick.

Observations made by Charles Darwin along the coasts of South America during the years 1832-35, had been communicated by him in letters addressed to Professor Henslow; and the main facts were brought before the Society in November 1835 by Sedgwick. Darwin was elected a Fellow on November 30, 1836; in the following year he was chosen a member of Council, and before the close of 1837 he was sounded by Henslow with regard to the secretaryship. In his reply Darwin raised sundry objections:

'First, my entire ignorance of English Geology—a knowledge of which would be almost necessary in order to