

responsible for any individual statements, unless where expressly acknowledged.

It was the privilege of the writer to serve nearly four years as Assistant in the Library and Museum of the Society, commencing in 1863, when Leonard Horner was still devoting much time to the arrangement of the rock-specimens, when Lyell and Murchison still took an active part in the meetings of the Society, and Bigsby, Robert Chambers, Egerton, Falconer, and Godwin-Austen were members of Council. Recollections of those days created the ambition to write a history of the Society, and the approach of the centenary stirred the effort. No step was taken until the present Assistant Secretary had been consulted, in case he too had nurtured a similar ambition ; but Mr. Belinfante, while expressing his cordial sympathy with the project and his willingness to help in any way, at the same time intimated his inability to devote time to its preparation. Substantial aid has, however, been rendered by members of his staff. Mr. William Rupert Jones has at all times placed his stores of bibliographic knowledge at the service of the writer. Mr. C. H. Black and Mr. Alec Field have rendered much assistance in the preparation of the list of members prior to the Incorporation, and of the list of members of Council ; and they have cheerfully aided in verifying sundry references. Here acknowledgment should also be made of help afforded by the invaluable 'Dictionary of National Biography.'

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