

REPORTS
OF THE
COUNCIL AND AUDITORS
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY
OF LONDON,

READ AT THE ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING,

APRIL 29, 1841.

LONDON:
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1841.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

IN presenting their Fourteenth Annual Report, the Council have only to direct the attention of the Fellows to the following statements of the proceedings in the several departments since the last Anniversary.

I. GENERAL ESTABLISHMENT.

1. MEMBERS.—*a. Fellows.*

The number of Fellows on the Books of the Society at the present moment amounts to 2849, of whom 1132 are contributors of £3 per annum, and 1119 of £2. This is exclusive of ~~Candidates for the Fellowship~~, of whom there are at present 44, making the whole number of Fellows and Fellows-elect 2893. Of these, 75 have been elected since the last Anniversary, and 5 re-admitted under the provision of the By-Laws, Chap. I. sect. 9. Within the same period there have been 60 deaths, 69 resignations, and 145 removals, altogether amounting to 274 Fellows, whom the Society has lost within the past year. Of this comparatively large number, however, it is to be observed, that 53 of the removals properly belong to the year 1839, but are included in the past year, from an accidental informality which occurred in giving them notice of their liability, and which induced the Council to enlarge the period of their removal, as stated in the last Anniversary Report.

Among those Fellows who have been removed by death within the past year, the Council cannot pass over the name of Nicholas Aylward Vigors, Esq., without recording their sense of his high scientific attainments. Mr. Vigors, as is well known, was the first Secretary of this

Elect

Society, and to his zeal and activity it is indebted for a large portion of its early popularity, as it is to his liberality for an extensive Collection of Birds and Insects, besides numerous minor donations; all of which are still valuable, as many of them were at the time unique. In Natural History, Mr. Vigors was the acknowledged head of British Ornithologists, during the period that he attended to scientific pursuits; and though his views with respect to classification are no longer participated in to the same extent as formerly, yet they were developed with such ingenuity, illustrated so pleasingly, and enforced with so much power, as made them very popular at the time. Some of his papers on this subject, inserted in the Transactions of the Linnæan Society and in the Zoological Journal, of which he was the principal editor, are models of scientific composition.

b. Honorary and Foreign Members.

In these two classes no changes have occurred since the last Anniversary.

c. Corresponding Members.

The number of Corresponding Members whose names are retained on the Books of the Society is 140, of whom 7 are new Members elected since the last Anniversary. The Council have only heard of two deaths among this class of our Associates—that of Mr. James Prinsep, so well known over Europe as Secretary of the Royal Asiatic Society of Calcutta, and equally distinguished as a scientific and numismatic scholar; and that of Mr. Henry Woods of Bath, a zealous naturalist, and at one time a very regular attendant at the Scientific Meetings of the Society; but there is reason to believe that the gross number of Corresponding Members at present on the List considerably overstates the actual amount, as from their residence in distant countries it rarely happens that we obtain information of the deaths which occur in this useful class of our Associates.

2. FINANCES.—*a. Income and Expenditure.*

The income of the Society during the year 1840, amounted to £12,732 1s. 5*d.*, and the expenditure to £11,838 1s. 11*d.*, being a surplus of £893 1s. 11*d.* in favour of the income. This sum, together with £175 5s. 6*d.*, the excess of the cash balance in the banker's hands on the 31st December, 1839, over that which remained at the corresponding period of 1840, together amounting to £1068 7s. 5*d.*, was invested shortly after the last Anniversary Meeting in the Reduced 3 per cent. Consols. As regards the gross amount of the receipts in 1840, it will be observed, that it falls short of that of the previous year by the sum of £699 10s. 10*d.*; but it is at least gratifying to know that the greater portion of this deficit arises from Garden Admissions, the amount of which must necessarily fluctuate with the season. This therefore is but a casual deficit, and it is more than compensated by the increase of £129 which has taken place in the Annual Subscriptions, the most permanent and important branch of the Society's income. But whilst this decrease has taken place in the income of the Society, it has been met by a corresponding decrease in the expenditure to the amount of £1798 14s. It is true, indeed, that this is partly owing to the fact of no great buildings having been undertaken during the past year; but on the other hand it will be observed, that there are very few items of expenditure in which a reduction to a greater or less extent has not taken place as compared with the year 1839; and the amount would have been still larger but for the excess of £584 2s. 8*d.* under the head of Works, &c., which may be fairly balanced against the Buildings of the previous year.

b. Assets and Liabilities.

The Assets of the Society on the 31st of December, 1840, exceeded those at the corresponding period of 1839, by the sum of £991 7s. 9*d.*, whilst the Liabilities were

diminished by the amount of £936 10s. 1d.; being an improvement on the financial year of no less than £1927 17s. 10d., as will appear from the following comparative statements :—

		Dec. 31, 1839.			Dec. 31, 1840.		
		£	s.	d.	£	s.	d.
Assets.....	Cash	330	15	7	155	10	1
	3 per cents.	12,091	12	7	13,160	0	0
	Museum Fund.....	209	6	0	307	11	10
		12,631	14	2	13,623	1	11
	Increase	991	7	9			
Liabilities	Debts	1,699	7	8	762	17	7
	Decrease.....				936	10	1

This is a very great improvement as compared with the corresponding period of last year, when the Assets exhibited a deficit of £310 7s. 2d., which was barely balanced by a diminution in the Liabilities to the amount of £379 8s. 8d.

The "Investment Fund" has been increased during the past year by the sum of £1068 7s. 5d. It now exceeds the total amount of Life Compositions by the sum of £360; and the Council have therefore the satisfaction of stating that this fund has not only reached but surpassed the minimum which they formerly pledged themselves to attain.

c. Arrears.

The Council cordially unite with the Committee of Auditors in lamenting the large Arrear of Subscriptions which still continues due to the Society, and beg once more to press upon the attention of the Fellows the propriety of paying their Subscriptions by general orders on their respective bankers, as at once best calculated to save themselves much inconvenience, and the Society a very serious loss.

II. SCIENTIFIC ESTABLISHMENT.

1. MUSEUM.

Under the present circumstances of the Society, particularly as regards the unsettled state of the Museum question, the Council do not feel it necessary to enter into any detailed statements on this head. A Committee was appointed in the early part of last year to consider the whole subject; and their final Report, lately presented to the Council, embodies the result of their labours, and will be laid before the Society at large as soon as certain inquiries therein suggested, and still pending, shall have been brought to a conclusion. During the progress of their inquiries, they judged it necessary to recommend to the Council the expediency of ordering a valuation of the preserved Collections to be made for the information and guidance of the Society in arriving at a proper judgment on the important question of their final disposition. This was accordingly done by two of the most competent gentlemen whom the Council could select for that purpose, and who have returned a detailed valuation of the several classes of specimens preserved in the Museum, amounting in the whole to the sum of £10,965.

The state of the premises in Leicester Square, occasioned by the pulling down of the adjoining houses, in addition to other inconveniences attached to them as a depository for so valuable a Collection, determined the Council to take advantage of the covenant in their lease, by which they were empowered to determine the tenancy at Lady-day last; but owing to the still unsettled state of the Museum question, they have concluded a fresh arrangement for retaining possession of the inhabitable part till Midsummer next, by which time it is hoped that this subject will have been finally disposed of, and the Council will then be at liberty to provide permanent accommodation for carrying on the ordinary business of the Society. In the meantime, the Collections have been removed to a warehouse in Dufour's Place, Broad Street, Golden

Square, where they are arranged as conveniently as the confined space will admit.

As soon as the pending inquiries already alluded to shall have been brought to a conclusion, the Council intend to summon a Special General Meeting of the Society, to take the whole subject of the Museum into consideration, for the purpose of determining upon its ultimate destination.

Donations to the Museum.

The principal Donations to the Museum since the last Anniversary have been—

Seven fine species of Birds of Paradise, presented by the Duke of Northumberland.

A Skin of the Ibex, three Skins of the Moufflon; two specimens of a species of Lemmus; a Collection of Birds and Reptiles, in spirit; and a few Birds' Eggs and Shells, from Erzeroom, presented by Edward Dalzell Dickson, M.D., and Henry Jas. Ross, Esq., Corr. Members.

Four Skins of Mammalia from Malacca; two specimens of Swallows with their Nests, from the Philippine Islands; two Skins of the *Trogon ardens*, Tem., male and female; and a new species of Cuckoo (*Phænicophaus Cumingi*); also seventy-one specimens of Bird-Skins, from Manilla, presented by Hugh Cuming, Esq., Corr. Member.

Eighteen Bird-Skins from the Neilgherry Hills, collected by T. C. Jerden, Esq., E.I.C.S., presented by Hamilton Lindsay, Esq., Corr. Member.

The body of a Four-horned Antelope, presented by the Earl of Derby, President.

Six small Quadrupeds in spirit, and a Collection of Birds' Eggs, from Devonshire, presented by Charles Appleyard, Esq.

A Specimen of *Ausonia Cuvieri*, Risso, and two Snakes, from Demerara, presented by the Rev. R. T. Lowe, Corr. Member.

Specimens of a Blue Shark (*Carcharias glaucus*), and a Portbeagle Shark (*Lamna cornubica*).

A *Penelope Urubitinga*, from Para; an *Otus Brachyotus*, and a *Larus ridibundus*, from Gibraltar. Also a Collection of Corals and Marine Zoophytes from the coast of Barbary, presented by John Frembly, Esq., R.N., Corr. Member.

Six Bird-Skins from Cuba, among which are the Muscian, and a Flycatcher, apparently both undescribed; also the Head, Wings, &c. of the *Nycticorax violacea*, presented by Charles Clarke, Esq.

Twenty-seven Bird-Skins from Australia, presented by Leonard Chandler, Esq.

Twenty-one Bird-Skins, and two bottles of Reptiles, from Port Essington, presented by Owen Stanley, Capt. R.N., of H.M.S. Britomart.

Sixty-three Bird-Skins, twenty Nests, and a Collection of Eggs, from Tangiers, presented by G. W. H. Drummond Hay, Esq., son of Drummond Hay, Esq., of Morocco, Corr. Member.

A Skull of the Babyrussa, and the body of a Gray Parrot, presented by Sir George Farrant.

An Alligator from Mexico, presented by Lieut. Robert Innis, R.N., of H.M. brig Pandora, Corr. Member.

Thirteen Bird-Skins, and a Collection of Mollusca and Zoophytes in spirit, from Sicily, presented by Madame Power, Corr. Member.

A small Dog under a Glass Shade, presented by H.R.H. the Duchess of Kent.

Besides which, donations have also been received from M. Drummond; Thomas Whitfield; Capt. George Warren; George Knapp; Anthony White; William Yarell; Dr. Robertson; Rob. Schomburgk, Corr. Memb.; Hon. Sir Edw. Cust; Capt. William Reynolds; Charles Drummond; John Goldham; John Smith; Aug. E. Fuller; Lord Francis Egerton; Wm. J. Broderip.

The number of Visitors to the Museum during the year 1840 was 3901, of which 3330 were privileged and 571

unprivileged ; and the money received for admission was £28 11s.

2. LIBRARY.

The principal donations to the Library since the last Anniversary have been—

Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Turin, presented by the Academy.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Geological Society of London, presented by the Society.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Linnæan Society of London, presented by the Society.

Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Stockholm, presented by the Academy.

Transactions of the American Philosophical Society, presented by the Society.

Transactions of the Royal Academy of Sciences of Berlin, presented by the Academy.

Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Irish Academy, presented by the Academy.

Transactions of the Society of Arts, &c., presented by the Society.

Transactions of the Royal Society of Edinburgh, presented by the Society.

Transactions of the Institute Royale des Pays Bas, presented by the Institute.

Besides Proceedings and Journals from the following learned bodies :—the American Philosophical Society, the Royal Academy of Sciences of Paris, the Imperial Academy of Sciences of St. Petersburg, the Imperial Society of Naturalists of Moscow, the Royal Academy of Sciences of Brussels, the Royal Geographical Society of London, the Royal College of Surgeons, the Royal Asiatic Society of Great Britain, the Royal Institution of Cornwall, the Royal Agricultural Society of England, the Boston (U.S.) Natural History Society, the British Association, the Franklin Institute, the Scientific Society of London.

Donations have also been received from Professors Vrolik, Savi, For. Memb., Van der Hoeven, Müller, Agassiz, the Editor of the Athenæum Journal, William Ogilby,

Philip Kernan, Messrs. Whitehead and Co., L. Vanuxem, Rob. H. Schomburgk, Corr. Memb., J. Hogg, Edward Newman, Capt. Harris, E.I.C.S., M. A. Valenciennes, For. Memb., Dr. Rüppell, For. Memb., M. de Selys-Longchamps, A. Quetelet, I. VanVoorst, Dr. Natterer, J. M'Clelland, Corr. Memb., John Gould, Corr. Memb., James Dickson, M. le Baron de la Fresnaye, Dr. Andrew Smith, Corr. Memb.

3. PUBLICATIONS.

Under this head it is only necessary to state, that the Proceedings, up to the conclusion of last year, are now in the press ; and that Part 5. of Vol. II. of the Transactions is now completed, and will be ready in a few days for distribution to the Members and the public.

III. GARDEN ESTABLISHMENT.

I. WORKS.

Though no works of magnitude have been undertaken at the Gardens during the past season, various minor ones have, nevertheless, been carried on ; among which it is only necessary to specify the erection of the external cages at the Monkey-house, the completion of one of the large cages inside, and the permanent repair of the Bridge by the Elephant-house, which had long been a source of anxiety to the Council, and had repeatedly given way in former years.

Various buildings of greater importance are, however, now in contemplation. Plans and estimates have been already obtained for the construction of a New Pheasantry, and of apartments for the use of the Cook and Confectioner ; and a plan is under consideration, for providing permanent accommodation for the Deer and Antelopes, instead of the confined and unwholesome temporary buildings in which they are at present placed, and which, it is hoped, may be made equally ornamental to the Gardens, and appropriate to the habits of this beautiful and interesting class of animals. In the erection of them and all

future buildings, the Council are determined to keep in view the principle of classification and concentration developed in last year's Report, convinced as they are that the interest and utility of the Collection will be materially enhanced by bringing together all those animals which are actually allied to one another. For this purpose, and to enable them to judge properly of the distribution of the buildings, with a just view at once to economy and effect, they have ordered a survey of the Gardens to be made to a convenient scale.

2. MENAGERIE.

This important department has received many valuable accessions during the past year, and its state has been in some respects considerably ameliorated. The Monkey-house, in particular, has continued perfectly healthy since the period of the last Anniversary Report: the stock in this department has uniformly averaged from 50 to 60 individuals; and though among so large a number of these delicate animals it was but natural to expect some casualties, it is yet highly satisfactory to know that there has not been, within the last twelve months, a single instance of phthisis, or tuberculated lungs, that destructive malady which caused so much mortality during the preceding winter and spring.

The Giraffes continue to enjoy uninterrupted good health, and the female is expected to calve about the middle of June.

The whole number of animals contained in the Menagerie at the present moment is 894, of which 352 are Mammals, 524 Birds, and 18 Reptiles.

a. Species not before exhibited.

Of Mammals, 1 entirely new species, and 13 species not before exhibited in the Society's Menagerie, besides 9 species of Birds new to the Collection, have enriched the Gardens during the past season.

The Council cannot leave this part of the subject without adverting more specially to the very rare and valuable

donation of Birds and Quadrupeds presented by their esteemed Corresponding Member, Hugh Cuming, Esq., on his return from the Philippine Islands; a donation exceeding in rarity and interest any single Collection which the Society has received for some years. Among other specimens presented by Mr. Cuming, were a noble example of the Argus Pheasant, believed to be the first living bird of the species ever seen in Europe, a Fire-backed Pheasant, a Gibbon Ape, a Flying Squirrel, &c., most of which are still living, and form some of the greatest ornaments of the Menagerie. Neither can they pass over without special notice the interesting donation of a living Babyrussa, the first ever seen in this country, which they owe to another valued Member of the Society, Capt. Edward Belcher, R.N., to whom the Society was already under many previous obligations.

The following is a list of the new and rare species exhibited for the first time in the Society's Menagerie:

List of Mammals exhibited for the first time at the Menagerie.

Agile Gibbon (dark variety). *Hylobates agilis.*

Talapoin Monkey. *Cercopithecus Talapoin.*

A new species of *Cercopithecus*. *C. tantalus*, Ogilby.

Anjouan Lemur. *Lemur Anjuanensis.*

A small undetermined species of Ichneumon, from Madagascar.

Fasciated Ichneumon. *Herpestes fasciatus.*

The Zorilla. *Zorilla Capensis.*

The Bassaris. *Bassaris astuta.*

The Babyrussa. *Sus Babyrussa.*

Indian Tapir. *Tapirus Indicus.*

Splendid Flying-Squirrel. *Pteromys nitidus.*

West African Ground-Squirrel. *Sciurus erythropus.*

Opossum Mouse. *Phalangista nana.*

Moor Monkey. *Semnopithecus Maurus.*

The Council cannot leave this part of the subject without adverting more specially to the very rare and valuable

List of Birds exhibited for the first time.

- American Robins. *Turdus migratorius.*
 Pink-footed Goose. *Anas phœnicopus*, Bartlett.
 Black-throated Troupiale. *Icterus gularis.*
 Short-tailed Eagle. *Helotarsus typicus*, Smith.
 13
 Cuming Argus Pheasant. *Argus Pavoninus*, Vieill.
 13 — Fire-backed Pheasant. *Euplocomus erythrophthalmus*,
 Gray.
 Argus Partridge. *Perdix longirostris*, Hardw. and Gray.
 Hornbill. *Buceros Anthracinus?* Tem.
 ——— Parrot. *Paleornis columboïdes.*
 Scarlet Tanager. *Tanagra rubra*, Auct.
 Mocking-bird. *Orpheus polyglottus*, Swains.

b. Donations.

The principal Donations to the Menagerie, during the past year, were as follows :—

- A Lioness and a White Stork, presented by HER MAJESTY THE QUEEN.
 Two Vulpine Opossums, a Wolf, two Hybrid Geese, between the Barnacle and White-fronted, a pair of Mount Sinai Partridges, two Racoons, and a Horned Frog, presented by the Earl of Derby, President.
 A Chinese Goose, a Long-bill'd Partridge, a Hornbill, an Argus Pheasant, a Fire-backed Pheasant, a Flying Squirrel, a Gibbon Monkey, and a Paradoxure Gennet, presented by Hugh Cuming, Esq., Corr. Memb.
 A Moufflon, presented by the Right Hon. Sir Augustus Foster, H.M. Minister at Turin.
 A Red Deer, presented by Lady Rolle.
 A Sambur Deer, presented by the Earl of Powis.
 Two Silky Monkeys, presented by Lieut. Robert Innis, R.N., of H.M. brig Pandora, Corr. Memb.
 A Boa Constrictor, presented by His Excellency Sir Henry MacLeod, Governor of Trinidad.
 A White-headed Sea Eagle, presented by G. R. Robinson, Esq.

- A Dog-faced Baboon, presented by William Griffiths, Esq.
 A Wombat, presented by Sir William Burnett, Inspector-General of Naval Hospitals.
 Two Marmozet Monkeys, presented by H. Artaria, Esq.
 A Badger, presented by Thomas Hussey, Esq.
 A Puma, presented by the Leeds Zoological and Botanical Society.
 A Newfoundland Dog, presented by H.R.H. Prince Albert.
 Three Protei, presented by M. Drummond, Esq.
 A young Puma, presented by Patrick Walker, Esq.
 A Deer, a Coati Mundi, three Doves, four Collar'd Turtle Doves, one Mountain Dove, and a Pigeon, from Demerara, presented by Dr. Evans.
 A pair of Agoutis, presented by Lieut. Christopher Smith, R.N., H.M.S. Star, Corr. Memb.
 A pair of Napu Musk Deer, presented by Miss Gregson.
 A Crowned Crane, presented by Sir John Barrow.
 Two Tiger Boa Constrictors, presented by Captain Redman, Corr. Memb.
 A Nutmeg Bird, and a species of Oriole new to the Collection, presented by Miss Heathorn.
 Two Mocking Birds, presented by C. B. Courtney, Esq.
 A Guan, presented by John Fremby, Esq., R.N., Corr. Memb.
 A Coitea, presented by Charles Stokes, Esq.
 A pair of Sloth Bears, presented by William Wilson, Esq.
 A Greater Sulphur-Crested Cockatoo, presented by Mrs. Mette.
 A Leopard, presented by Lieut.-Gen. Churchill, Corr. Memb.
 A Bassaris, from Mexico, presented by — Stoltz, Esq., of Vera Cruz, through Lieut. Smith, R.N., Corr. Memb.

In addition to which, further Donations have been made by the Rev. J. Bannister; Rev. William Bowyer; William S. Gillett; William Rayner; Charles Appleyard; J. Woodward; F. Plomley; W. J. Broderip; — Price; Mrs. Bethell; M. Forster; Mrs. Webster; Henry Elliott; —

Head; C. F. Mackenzie; R. T. Clarke; — Bell; Capt. Sims; Jasper Atkinson; — Tedman; Miss Wilson; E. Braby; — South; W. C. Fish; W. T. Smith; O. Russell; A. Russell; — Adams; S. Robinson; William Wardrop, R.N.; A. Hamilton; — Bass; G. F. C. Peter; Adam Duff; Mrs. Edward Lawford; R. N. Hunt; Mrs. Cavendish; — Berry.

3. VISITORS.

The number of visitors to the Gardens during the year 1840 was 141,009, of whom 49,320 were privileged, and 91,689 unprivileged. In the former there is a decrease of 9,029, and in the latter of 8,394, as compared with the visitors belonging to their respective classes in 1839; a decrease which it is impossible to account for otherwise than upon the principle of that fluctuation which is inseparably incident to objects of public curiosity.

COMMITTEES OF AUDIT, FINANCE AND PUBLICATION.

The Council have once more the pleasing duty of recording their thanks to the COMMITTEES OF AUDIT, FINANCE and PUBLICATION, for the patience, zeal and ability which they have displayed during the past year, in discharging the important business of their several departments.

Head; C. E. Mackenzie; R. T. Clarke; — Bell; Capt. Sims; Jasper Atkinson; — Tedman; Miss Wilson; E. Brady; — South; W. C. Fish; W. T. Smith; O. Russell; A. Russell; — Adams; S. Robinson; William Ward; R. N.; A. Hamilton; — Bass; G. F. C. Peter; Adam Duff; Mrs. Edward Lawford; R. N. Hunt; Mrs. Cavendish; — Betty.

REPORT

OF THE

AUDITORS OF THE ACCOUNTS,

Appointed January 7, 1841.

COMMITTEES OF AUDIT, FINANCE AND

The Committee of Auditors having carefully examined the Books, Vouchers, and Accounts, lay before the Society the following abstract of the Receipts and Payments for the year 1840, together with a Statement of the Assets and Liabilities of the Society, with their Report thereon.

RECEIPTS.

	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Balance of Cash brought from 1839			330 15 7
INCOME.			
Belonging to year			
1836 { Annual Subscriptions	4 0 0		
{ Transactions	1 16 0		
		5 16 0	
1837 { Admission Fees	5 0 0		
{ Annual Subscriptions	6 0 0		
		11 0 0	
1838 { Annual Subscriptions	68 0 0		
{ Farm Rent	5 0 0		
		73 0 0	
1839 { Admission Fees	50 0 0		
{ Annual Subscriptions	320 0 0		
{ Transactions	1 10 0		
{ Ivory Tickets	4 10 0		
{ Garden Sales	14 10 0		
{ Farm Rent	60 0 0		
		450 10 0	
1840 { Admission Fees	420 0 0		
{ Annual Subscriptions	5368 5 0		
{ Compositions	240 0 0		
{ Ivory Tickets	286 0 0		
{ Dividends on Bank Annuities, &c. ...	428 18 10		
{ Transactions	122 2 1		
{ Proceedings	13 6 0		
{ Donations	26 0 0		
{ Admissions to Museum	28 11 0		
{ Museum Catalogues	0 9 0		
{ Admissions to Gardens	4584 9 0		
{ Garden Guides	36 13 0		
{ Garden Sales	194 5 6		
{ Garden Rent	400 0 0		
{ Miscellaneous	2 16 0		
{ Farm Rent	15 0 0		
		12166 15 5	
1841. Annual Subscriptions (anticipated)		25 0 0	
INCOME RECEIVED IN 1840.....		12732 1 5	12732 1 5
			£13062 17 0

PAYMENTS.

		Farm.	Gardens.	Museum.	General Estab ^t .	Total.
EXPENDITURE.						
Belonging to year		£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
1839	Rent	30 0 0	212 4 0	81 7 2	40 13 7	364 4 9
	Bills		1181 19 8	47 7 0	107 19 0	1337 5 8
		30 0 0	1394 3 8	128 14 2	148 12 7	1701 10 5
1840	Rent, Taxes, Rates, &c.	30 0 0	479 19 3	253 2 9	119 17 6	
	Salaries and Wages.....		1794 2 0	297 13 0	582 4 0	
	Keepers' Dresses.....		70 12 0			
	Cost of Animals		786 9 0			
	Carriage of Animals		49 4 11			
	Provisions		2136 15 0			
	Menagerie Expenses		558 12 4			
	Garden Expenses		546 12 0			
	Works, &c.		1398 14 2	83 5 2	29 8 1	
	Cost of Subjects			19 7 6		
	Carriage of Subjects			12 9 3		
	Cost of Preparations			175 4 7		
	Library			19 3 9		
	House and Office Expenses		40 8 0		203 9 2	
	Stationery and Printing		31 19 4		198 6 2	
	Transactions				194 7 11	
	Returned Subscriptions				22 12 6	
Loss on Sale of £1500 } Exchequer Bills				3 9 9		
Paid on account of the current year		30 0 0	7893 8 0	860 6 0	1353 15 1	10137 9 1
EXPENDITURE PAID IN 1840		60 0 0	9287 11 8	989 0 2	1502 7 8	11838 19 6
Paid for £1176 0s. 6d. Reduced 3 per Cents.						1068 7 5
Cash in hand December 31, 1840						155 10 1
£ 13062 17 0						

The Assets and Liabilities of the Society on the 31st of December, 1840, were as follow:

ASSETS.							
	Living and preserved Collections.	Arrears of		Invested in Consolidated 3 per Cents.	Capital Funded.	Cash.	
		Previous Years.	Current Year.			£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Cash at Banker's.....							155 10 1
£6913 19s. 5d. } Consolidated 3 per Cents.....					5871 17 7		
£7972 5s. 11d. } Reduced 3 per Cents.....					7288 2 5		
Annual Subscriptions.....		249 0 0	688 0 0				
Transactions.....			20 18 6				
£337 9s. 3d. } Consolidated 3 per Cents. Museum Fund Account.....				307 11 10			
Farm Rent.....			45 0 0				
Garden Stock sold, unpaid for.....		3 0 0	3 6 0				
Proceedings.....			0 18 0				
Uncertain.		252 0 0	758 2 6	307 11 10	13160 0 0		155 10 1

LIABILITIES.

	Debts.	
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Bills, &c. unpaid, estimated at		
Say, for the Gardens.....	348 10 10	
— General Establishment.....	48 18 0	
		397 8 10
Rent, &c. unpaid, say,		
For the Farm.....	30 0 0	
— Gardens.....	212 4 0	
— Museum.....	82 3 2	
— General Establishment.....	41 1 7	
		365 8 9
		£ 762 17 7

INCOME.

The foregoing Abstract of the Income for the year 1840, when compared with that of the preceding year, will exhibit a decrease in the whole of £699 10s. 10*d.*, the falling off of the Receipts under the important head of "Admissions to the Gardens" amounting to £419 14s. Under the several heads of "Admission Fees, Compositions, and Ivory Tickets," there is also a decrease, amounting together to the sum of £364 17s. Under the head of "Annual Subscriptions," there is for past, present, and future years, on the whole, an increase of £129, there being a decrease under this head, of the trifling sum of £15 for the year 1840, as compared with the year 1839; thus showing an admirable steadiness in this important part of the Society's Income. Under the head of "Garden Sales," the sum of £208 15s. 6*d.* appears to have been received, being £15 6s. 6*d.* less than the sum received under this head in the preceding year. Your Committee express an earnest hope that this interesting and useful object of the Society will be prosecuted by the Council with unabated exertions.

ARREARS OF SUBSCRIPTIONS.

Your Committee observe with unfeigned regret, that the arrear of Subscriptions amount, for previous years, to the sum of £249; and for the year 1840, to the sum of £688; making together the sum of £937; being £21 more than the arrears due, under these heads, in the year 1839. Your Committee refer the Society to the admirable suggestions of the Council and Auditors of last year on this subject, and point out, that had these arrears been paid up, as they most unquestionably ought to have been, the Income of 1840 would have been larger than that of 1839 by above £200.

EXPENDITURE.

Your Committee have great pleasure in stating, that the Expenditure for the past year has been kept considerably

under the amount of the Income, which has afforded the Council an opportunity of adding £1068 7s. 5d. sterling to the Investment Fund, leaving a balance in the Banker's hands of £155 10s. 1d.; being, however, less by £175 5s. 6d. than the balance on the 31st of December, 1839.

In one item of the Expenditure, viz. Salaries and Wages, there appears a saving, as compared with the previous year, amounting to £104 10s. 3d., in addition to the considerable reduction of £477 7s. 1d. which was made under this head in the year 1839.

Under the head of "Works, Materials, and Repairs," there has been, however, the considerable increase of £584 2s. 8d.; but there have been no buildings undertaken during the past year. There has been also an increase in the sum paid for Provisions in 1840, amounting to £100 13s. 10d.

The surplus of Income over Expenditure would have been still greater than has been stated, but that the large sum of £835 13s. 11d. has been expended during the year for that very desirable and legitimate object, the Purchase and Carriage of Animals.

Your Committee cannot leave this part of their Report without expressing to the Society at large the very great satisfaction with which, throughout their examination of the Society's Accounts, they recognize the evident determination continued to be manifested by the Council to reduce the expenditure of the Society as much as possible, consistently with the carrying out the great object for which the Society was originally formed, and in maintaining that high and useful character which its admirable Living Collection and splendid Museum have established throughout most parts of the world. In testimony of this determination of the Council, your Committee state that the general Expenditure of the year 1840, as compared with the preceding year, exhibits a decrease of £110 13s. 9d., making together, with the further decrease of the large sum of £1688 0s. 3d. under the head of "Buildings," of which none appear to have been undertaken during the past year, the total sum of £1798 14s.

ASSETS.

There has been the sum of £1068 7s. 5d. added to the funded capital, making the whole amount to the sum of £13,160; in other respects the Assets of the Society have not been materially altered, with the exception of the Balance in the hands of the Bankers, before alluded to.

LIABILITIES.

A comparison of the Liabilities of the Society at the close of the years 1839 and 1840, exhibits a decrease in favour of the latter year amounting to the sum of £936 10s. 1d.; and there are no contracts pending.

Your Committee cannot conclude their Report without adding their testimony to that of former Auditors to the correctness with which the Books and Accounts of the Society are kept by the Assistant Secretary, and the great zeal which he evinces for the welfare of the Society.

CHARLES APPLEYARD.
R. V. BARNEWALL.
WILLIAM L. BARTON.
NATHANIEL HUSON.
WILLIAM PHELPS.
EDWARD PRIOR.
F. J. H. TEMPLE.

28, *Leicester Square*, February 26, 1841.

REPORT
OF
THE COUNCIL
TO THE
SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING
OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

CALLED FOR MAY 20, 1841.

IN calling this Special General Meeting of the Society, to take into consideration the various questions relating to the present condition and ultimate destination of the Museum and Preserved Collections, the Council, whilst they consider it their duty to place before the Fellows at large an impartial statement of the various facts and circumstances relating to the subject, desire to refrain from the expression of any opinion of their own. They feel that the subject is one of the most grave and important which has ever come under their consideration as the governing body of the Society; that it involves a large amount of property; that the scientific character and ultimate stability of the Society may be seriously affected by its solution; in short, that the Museum question may have a bearing on the welfare of the Society, of which the Council are naturally unwilling to incur the responsibility, without the advice of the body at large. They therefore submit the whole question to the consideration of this Special General Meeting; contenting themselves with

laying before the Fellows such facts and information as may enable them to form a candid and unbiassed opinion, and confident that their decision will be influenced solely by a sincere desire to promote the dignity, the respectability, and the permanent prosperity of the Society.

The history of the Museum question dates from the very commencement of the Society itself. In the original prospectus, issued on the 1st of February 1825, it is observed, that "the object of the proposed Society is to attempt the introduction of new races of Quadrupeds, Birds or Fishes, &c., applicable to purposes of utility either in our farm-yards, gardens, woods, waters, lakes or rivers; *and to connect with this object a general Zoological Collection of Preserved Specimens.*" The Charter also, in declaring that the Society was founded "for the advancement of Zoology and Animal Physiology, and the introduction of new and curious subjects of the Animal Kingdom," expressly recognizes the scientific character and objects of the Society. Long prior to the period of the Charter, and even to the formation of the Gardens and Menagerie, the foundations of the Preserved Collections were laid by Sir T. Stamford Raffles, Mr. Vigors, and the other eminent men to whom we are indebted for our first institution; and the Museum continued to be subsequently enriched from various sources, from purchases, from deaths at the Gardens, and from private donations, till so early as the year 1830 it had already become inconveniently large for the house which it then occupied in Bruton Street, and proposals were made by various Fellows, both in and out of the Council, "to have a plan prepared of an extensive Museum, and at once to erect a portion of it in the Society's Gardens."

It was stated "that the erection of a gallery, 100 feet in length by 40 feet in breadth, with proper offices and a room for a library, might be completed for 6000*l.*, and the removal and fittings be accomplished for less than 2000*l.*;" and it was proposed, "that the Society should give up their house in Bruton Street, and that an office in London

should be retained at a rent of 100*l.* per annum, hiring a room for the purpose of public meetings." The proposal entered into further detail as to the providing the requisite funds ; and there were subscribed to it the names of forty-nine individuals, who were willing to contribute in various annual amounts forming a total of 270*l.*, towards making good the payment of interest on the amount proposed to be borrowed, and the support of the Museum ; should the receipts of the admissions to it, together with the yearly sum of 1000*l.* (which it was suggested should be appropriated by the Council from the Society's income for these purposes), be found insufficient.

In this plan it was assumed that one or more persons would be found to advance the required amount on the guarantee of individual Members for the payment of the interest thereon, and in confidence that the Society would, out of the surplus income of the Museum, establish a sinking fund for the repayment of the capital advanced ; but no responsibility whatever was to be incurred by the Society as a body, for the Council absolutely refused to pledge the resources of the Society on any plan of mortgage, bond or debenture.

The object of this plan not having been realized, the next proceeding on this subject was at a General Meeting of the Society on the 3rd of February 1831, when it was resolved "that a Committee of fifteen, consisting partly of Members of Council and partly of Fellows, should be appointed for the purpose of considering the best mode of obtaining, or erecting a Museum, for the reception of the valuable collection of the Society." This Committee immediately commenced its sittings, and had various meetings during a period of three months. Its inquiries extended to various houses in London, to the Colosseum, to building-sites in the metropolis and in the Regent's Park ; and on the 14th May it concluded its labours, by referring the Minutes of its proceedings to the Council, and recommending two sites as eligible for the purpose of erecting a Museum ; viz. the north bank of the

canal, opposite to the Gardens, and the west side of the present north Garden, on the south side of the canal." It also recommended to the consideration of the Council, the ground on the north side of the road, beyond the canal, at the foot of Barrow Hill.

In July following, a Committee of five Members of Council was appointed to take measures for obtaining a Museum, but they encountered difficulties in procuring an eligible site, and their labours consequently produced no definite result.

In the course of the following year the Society obtained possession of the ground on the north bank of the Regent's Canal, and the plan of building a Museum in the vicinity of the Gardens was again revived. Mr. Decimus Burton, at that time acting as the Society's architect, was instructed to prepare plans and estimates for erecting the proposed building in this locality. These were accordingly furnished and laid before the Council on the 28th of August following; a model was afterwards added, and from communications opened with the Commissioners of Woods and Forests, the Council had reason to believe, that in consideration of the outlay proposed to be expended in erecting the Museum, the above-mentioned site might be obtained on the usual building lease for a term of ninety-nine years.

The great outlay involved in this plan (the estimates alone of the proposed building amounted to 41,550*l.*) being strongly objected to by the Society, a mixed Committee, as before, was appointed in April 1834, to "consider as to building or acquiring a Museum, and to report to the Council, as soon as possible, the plan which appeared to them to be the most eligible." After holding various meetings and making extensive inquiries on the subject referred to their consideration, the Committee agreed to a Report in favour of purchasing or erecting a building in some central situation, which was presented to the Council and incorporated in the Annual Report, read at the Anniversary Meeting of that year. It was at the same time announced

that the "Council were not then prepared either to concur in or dissent from the opinion expressed in the Report of the Committee, viz. that the interests of the Society were less likely to be advanced by building in the immediate neighbourhood of the Gardens, than by acquiring a Museum in a more central part of London," but that they proposed, agreeably to the recommendation of the Committee, to call a Special Meeting of the Society on an early day, "to take into consideration all questions relating to the locality, purchasing, renting or building a Museum, with the view of ascertaining the sentiments of the Society in aid of the Council on these subjects." A Special General Meeting of the Society was accordingly held at the Lowther Rooms, on the 31st of May, at which it was resolved by a large majority, "That this Meeting do concur in the opinion expressed by the Museum Committee, that the interests of the Society were less likely to be advanced by building in the immediate neighbourhood of the Gardens than by acquiring a Museum in a more central part of London."

This decision necessarily disposed of the project of building on the north bank of the canal, but the lease of the house in Bruton Street being then on the point of expiring, and the Council feeling disinclined to adopt the proposals of the Committee, which recommended the purchase of Uxbridge House as a permanent Museum, were under the necessity of again looking out for temporary accommodation, and the premises in Leicester Square were accordingly taken on terms which allowed of their being vacated at the end of three, five, seven, ten, or fifteen years, as might best suit the convenience of the Society. Circumstances well known to the Fellows, and which it is unnecessary to repeat here, having rendered it advisable to terminate the occupancy of these premises at Lady Day last, a Committee was appointed on the 3rd of June 1840, to consider the whole question of the Museum. After holding numerous meetings during a period of nine months,

obtaining various returns relating to the Museum, some of which will be more particularly alluded to presently, and superintending the removal of the Collections to their present temporary place of deposit, this Committee presented its final Report to the Council on the 23rd of March last, to the following effect:—

“ Report of the Museum Committee.

“ The Committee appointed on the 3rd of June 1840, to consider the subject of the Museum, beg leave to report to the Council:—

“ That in accordance with their instructions, they have taken into their consideration the questions relating to the erection or purchase of a suitable building in a central part of London, capable of containing the Society’s present collections, and presenting such facilities for enlargement as would provide for their future increase:

“ 1. That with this intention they have had surveys and reports from Mr. Hogg on the capabilities of Crockford’s Bazaar in St. James’s Street, the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly, Sir Richard Westmacott’s premises in South Audley Street, the Colosseum, and Bolton House, Russell Square; that independently of other considerations, none of these premises afforded the requisite accommodation, and that they have heard of no other building in London adapted to the purposes of the Society.

“ 2. That the subject of purchasing a site and building a Museum in a central locality next engaged the attention of the Committee; but that owing to the very heavy expense which would be thereby entailed on the Society, and having a just regard to the present state of its finances, the pressing necessity which exists to provide better accommodation for the Carnivora, Ruminants and other important groups of animals at the Gardens, and the actual amount of the Investment Fund, they cannot recommend to the Council the adoption of a plan which would neces-

sarily burthen the Society with a temporary debt, and perhaps involve it in future difficulties.

“3. That the only remaining plan by which the Society can preserve its valuable collections, appears to the Committee to be that of erecting a suitable building, either on their own premises in the Gardens or in the immediate vicinity, if a site could be obtained from Government in that locality. Plans and estimates of such a building have been prepared by Mr Hogg, under the direction and for the information of the Committee, and it appears that the shell of a plain unornamented Museum, sufficiently capacious to contain the whole of the present Collection, and so designed as to admit of future enlargement and architectural ornament, if that should be deemed necessary at any time hereafter, may be erected for the sum of 2985*l.*: this sum is necessarily exclusive of all internal fittings, heating and contingencies, the amount of which it is impossible to calculate; but which, judging from the cost of removal from Bruton Street to Leicester Square, the Committee think could not be calculated at less than 2000*l.* or 2500*l.*

“This plan necessarily proceeds on the hypothesis of the Society’s determining to retain permanent possession of the preserved portion of its collections, which many Fellows believe to be inseparably connected with its scientific character, and therefore essential to its real dignity and respectability. But it has been suggested by Mr. John Edward Gray, Keeper of the Zoological Collections in the British Museum and a Fellow of the Society, in a letter to the Council, and by them referred to this Committee, that on condition that the Society should present its preserved collections to the National Museum, an arrangement might be entered into with the Trustees, by which the Society might secure all the scientific advantages which it enjoys at present, without the cost of supporting that part of its establishment. The Committee feel that this is a very important suggestion: on the one hand they

are fully alive to the yearly expense of maintaining the Society's Collection, as well as the present outlay required to provide for its permanent reception ; on the other hand, they are equally sensible of the scientific value of the Collection, which has been estimated at about 11,000*l.*, and of the unquestionable utility of some such establishment to a scientific body. They are unwilling, therefore, to take upon themselves to pursue the path of inquiry pointed out in Mr. Gray's letter, but beg to recommend to the Council the propriety of addressing the Trustees of the British Museum upon this subject, for the purpose of ascertaining what facilities they might be willing to afford to the scientific objects of this Society, in the case contemplated by Mr. Gray, or whether such arrangements could be made between the authorities of the British Museum and the Council of this Society as would secure the scientific advantages which we already possess, and for which the donation of so extensive, so select and so valuable a collection would entitle us to stipulate."

In consequence of this recommendation, a correspondence was opened between the Council and the Trustees of the British Museum, to ascertain what advantages this Society would be considered entitled to, or what facilities would be granted for the pursuit of its scientific objects, on the hypothesis of the transfer of so much valuable property. The following extracts contain the only material portions of this correspondence :—

Extract from the Letter of the Council to the Trustees of the British Museum, dated April 30, 1841.

"I am instructed by the Council to request that you will be pleased to submit the following queries to the Trustees.

"1. Whether the whole of the Collections will be preserved and exhibited.

"2. Whether, and on what conditions, or under

what circumstances, a specimen or specimens might be transferred from the British Museum to the Meeting Room or Lecture Room of the Zoological Society, for exhibition at their Scientific Meetings, or for demonstration at their Zoological Lectures.

“3. What privileges or facilities would be granted to Members of the Zoological Society requiring to study, compare, describe or delineate specimens of the preserved Collections of Natural History.”

Extract from the Letter of the Trustees in answer to the foregoing, dated British Museum, May 8th, 1841.

“SIR,—In reply to your letter of the date of April 30th, I am directed to acquaint you that the Trustees of the British Museum have had under their consideration the queries therein proposed to them on the part of the Council of the Zoological Society.

“In regard to the first, their answer is, that the whole of the Collections will be preserved and exhibited.

“Upon the second query, having heard read their Bye-Law, Chap. IV. § 13, ‘no part of the Collections belonging to the Museum shall be at any time carried out of the precincts thereof,’ they have

Resolved :

“That this Bye-Law shall not extend to the Collections offered by the Zoological Society to the Museum, so far as relates to the proposal for a specimen or specimens from such Collections to be transferred from the British Museum to the Meeting Room or Lecture Room of the Society, for exhibition at their Scientific Meetings, or for demonstration at their Zoological Lectures: the President of the Zoological Society, or in his absence the Chairman of the Council, upon occasion of such transfer, to give written notice to the Secretary of the British Museum, to be laid before a Committee of Trustees, of the desire to have such specimen or specimens transferred :

such notice, in the summer interval of the sittings of the Trustees, or at any other time, if the case is urgent, to be sent to the Principal Librarian, or to the officer who may represent him: not less than three whole days' notice to be given when any such transfer shall be required.

“Upon the third query, I am directed to acquaint you that all the facilities which are compatible with the preservation of the general Collection, will, with special pleasure, be afforded to the Members of the Zoological Society.”

It remains for the Society to determine whether these terms hold out prospective advantages equivalent to the transfer of property to the amount of 11,000*l.*

In conclusion, the Council would merely observe, that the utility and importance of the Museum to the Scientific Department, heretofore invariably acknowledged to be one of the essential objects of the Society, have been uniformly recognized in the Annual Reports of former Councils; and, as we have already seen, 1000*l.* a year was set apart from the general income of the Society for its support.

It only remains for the Council to place before the Society the following general and financial returns relating to this question, and which constitute one essential element in its consideration.

1. *Income and Expenditure of the Society from 1825-6 to 1840 inclusive.*

	1825-6	1827.	1828.	1829.	1830.	1831.	1832.	1833.
Income	1830	4079	11,515	14,034	15,958	17,563	15,493	14,843
Expenditure .	683	4381	10,045	11,315	19,271	15,913	13,006	13,152
	1834.	1835.	1836.	1837.	1838.	1839.	1840.	1841.
Income	16,834	16,033	19,124	13,960	14,094	13,432	12,732	
Expenditure .	12,980	13,330	19,637	14,350	12,588	13,638	11,839	

2. *Assets and Liabilities of the Society on the 31st of Dec. 1839 and 1840.*

	31st Dec. 1839.	31st Dec. 1840.
	£. s. d.	£. s. d.
Assets :—Cash	330 15 7	155 10 1
Three per Cents....	12,091 12 7	13,160 0 0
Museum Fund ...	209 6 0	307 11 10
	12,631 14 2	13,623 1 11
Increase	991 7 9	
Liabilities :—Debts.....	1699 7 8	762 17 7
Decrease		936 10 1

From which it appears, that besides discharging all the current expenses of the year (including £989 on account of the Museum), the Council paid out of the ordinary income of the year 1840 debts of the previous year to the amount of £936 10s. 1d., and had still remaining a surplus of £893 1s. 11d. to add to the Investment Fund. Had this large amount of debt on account of the previous year not been brought against 1840, the excess of the ordinary income of that year (which from various causes was lower than it had been for many years previously) over

the expenditure, *including the Museum*, would have been no less than £1829 12s.

3. *Return of the number of Fellows for the last five years, on the day of the Anniversary, April 29.*

Year.	Elected.	Quitted.	Total.
1836	289	96	2878
1837	294	122	3050
1838	177	206	3023
1839	187	199	3011
1840	136	76	3071
1841	85	274	2893

4. *Return of Visitors Paying, and Proceeds from the Museum.*

	While in Bruton Street, from 1828 to 1835.	While in Leicester Square, from 1836 to 1839.
Visitors paying	38,248	3519
Money received	£1912 8s.	£175 19s.

5. *Valuation of the Museum by Messrs. Gould and Westwood.*

It is impossible to give this return in detail, owing to its great length, and the variety of items which it embraces. It is sufficient to state that the whole amounts to the sum of £10,965

This is exclusive of Cases, Cabinets, and Fittings, which cannot be estimated under 2500

6. *Return of the Cost and Proceeds of the Transactions to 1841.*

	£.	s.	d.	£.	s.	d.
Cost				2361	17	3
Sale	1614	2	10			
Donations in Exchange .	395	6	6			
Public Libraries pursuant to Act of Parliament .	39	12	0	2049	1	4
Besides Stock on hand.						

7. *Return of the Cost of the Museum Establishment
from 1825 to 1840.*

	In Bruton Street, 1825 to 1835.	In Leicester Square, from 1836 to 1840.
	£ s. d.	£ s. d.
General Maintenance .	5725 11 10	7478 3 8*
Cost of Subjects.....	1082 11 11	468 2 4
	6808 3 9	7946 6 0

From this it appears that the average Annual Expenditure on the Museum has been 983*l.*, including the cost of new cases, &c., on removing to Leicester Square, or exclusive of this item, which does not properly come under the head of maintenance, to 845*l.*; but it is believed that owing to the present completeness of the Collection, which precludes the necessity for any further material expenditure on preparations and subjects, even this sum may be considerably reduced in future. Supposing a suitable building to be erected in the Gardens according to the estimate in Mr. Hogg's return, the following may be considered as a very fair approximation to the future cost of the Museum establishment:

Interest of 5000 <i>l.</i> sunk in buildings and fittings . . .	£175
Salary of Curator	200
— of two Assistants	120
Rates and taxes	50
Heating	50
Cost and mounting of specimens (the average of last 15 years = 127 <i>l.</i>)	100
Contingencies	55
	<hr/>
Total	£750

* This includes 2075*l.* 3*s.* 9*d.*, the cost of fitting up on the removal to Leicester Square.

8. *Mr. Hogg's Estimate for the erection of a new Museum in the Gardens.*

	£	s.	d.
Cost of building	2984	19	10
Cost of additional cases and fittings	877	2	6
	£3862 2 4		

To which are to be added the cost of heating apparatus and removing.

Besides this, the Council have in contemplation, during the course of the present year, the erection of buildings for the accommodation of the Deer and Antelopes, in addition to the New Refreshment Room now in progress, the probable cost of which together may amount to about 1800*l*.

302 feet of 4 ft cases

9 Sashes of 3 ft 3

9 " of 3 ft 6

Total

R E P O R T
OF THE
MUSEUM COMMITTEE TO THE SPECIAL
GENERAL MEETING

OF THE
ZOOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF LONDON,

JULY 8, 1841.

THE Committee appointed in consequence of the Resolution passed at the Special General Meeting of the Society, held at Willis's Rooms on the 20th of May, "for the purpose of considering the Report of the Council read that day; and to make a Report of the best mode of preserving the Society's Collection, with a view of advancing the scientific objects intended by the Charter," beg leave to report,—

That they held their first meeting on the 7th of June, the earliest day for which they could be brought together after the appointment of the members, in accordance with the Resolution passed at the General Meeting.

That upon considering the duties imposed upon them by the said Resolution, it appeared to the Committee that their labours were definitely circumscribed by the determination to retain the Museum as a permanent and essential part of the scientific establishment; and that they would therefore best respond to the wishes of the body at large by confining their attention to the simple inquiry as to the locality of the Museum; that is to say, whether,

under all the circumstances of the case, and having a due regard to the Financial condition of the Society, it would be more expedient to have the Museum in some central situation in the west end of the metropolis, or at the Gardens. In consequence of the Resolution passed at the Special General Meeting of the Society, held at the Lowther Rooms, on the 31st of May 1834, "That the interests of the Society were less likely to be advanced by building in the immediate neighbourhood of the Gardens, than by acquiring a Museum in a more central part of London," the Committee felt bound to give this question their most serious consideration. For this purpose they judged it expedient, in the first place, to reconsider the buildings and localities referred to in the Report of the Council as having been examined by the former Museum Committee, viz. "Crockford's Bazaar, in St. James's Street; the Egyptian Hall, Piccadilly; Sir Richard Westmacott's premises, in South Audley Street; the Colosseum, and Bolton House, Russell Square;" but that it appeared from the Surveyor's Report that none of these buildings were adapted to the purposes of the Society. The Committee, in the next place, directed the following advertisement to be inserted in the four principal Morning papers :

"Wanted in a central situation at the west end of the town, an extensive site, or ready-built premises, to serve as a Museum for the Zoological Society," to which they received only four answers, containing offers of the premises occupied by Mr. Little, 47 Mortimer Street, Cavendish Square; a house in Portland Place, No. 56; a house in Baker Street, No. 26; and a plot of ground between Downing Street and Great George Street, Westminster. None of these houses appeared to the Committee sufficiently capacious for the Society's purposes, whilst the sums demanded as rent, or purchase-money, were much beyond what it would be prudent to advise the Society to give, especially for premises which would require great

additional outlay to adapt them to the objects required, without admitting of further enlargement, if necessary. As to the plot of ground between Downing and Great George Streets, which might possibly have been obtained on more reasonable terms, the Committee deemed it unnecessary to take it into further consideration, as well on account of the locality as by the nature of the tenure, which was partly freehold and partly leasehold, under two different landlords.

The result of these inquiries satisfied the Committee that it was unnecessary for them to enter into the consideration of the abstract question, relating to the probable advantages or disadvantages of having the Museum at the Gardens, or in a central situation at the west end. Upon this question, therefore, they desire to express no opinion; but the result of their inquiries has forced upon them the conviction, that under all the circumstances of the Society, the former of these alternatives is not only the most desirable, but the only practicable plan which they can recommend to the Society. They accordingly came to the unanimous resolution, "That this Committee do concur in the opinion expressed by the Museum Committee, appointed on the 3rd of June 1840, 'That the only remaining plan by which the Society can preserve its valuable Collections, is that of erecting a suitable building, either on their own premises in the Gardens, or in the immediate vicinity, if a site could be obtained from Government for that purpose.'"

(Signed) WILLIAM POLE, Chairman.
 W. STURGES BOURNE.
 JOHN HEARNE.
 R. H. SOLLY.
 W. S. GILLET.
 WILLIAM OGILBY.

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(Signed) WILLIAM POLE, Chairman.
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