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Notes from the Archives of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, on its Origin, History, and Privileges

Symington Grieve

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He was also successful in Primulas and Polyanthuses, particularly in gold-laced varieties of the latter; in raising an excellent self-stage red Auricula; and—to the envy, perhaps, of many amateurs and professionals—of cultivating with conspicuous success numerous rare and difficult to rear Alpine Ferns and other Alpines.

Latterly he turned his attention to the improvement of *Trollius* (globe-flower), and crossed the American with the European species with good effect; and he also produced some beautiful varieties of the Daffodil, and was the fortunate discoverer of a unique strain of that favourite flower, growing wild, or naturalised from ancient times, which is known as The Whitehall Daffodil.

It was a real treat to a kindred spirit to ramble around Dr. Stuart's extraordinarily well-stocked garden with its owner, where, in expatiating upon his favourites, he would "talk down hours to minutes." It was ever a marvel to me how, in so small an area, such a vast collection of plants and flowers were always flourishing, and still there was space for experimental stations!

The lamented doctor was a man of much literary taste, and, in addition to his numerous contributions to the Berwickshire Club, and, to certain Journals, wrote a pamphlet on the Yetholm gipsies.

Mr. President and Gentlemen,—our Society, as well as other Societies, is distinctly the poorer by the decease of Dr. Charles Stuart, for, if not exactly a nobleman (though he was not far from being one), he was emphatically a noble man, whose name was an adornment, not only to our roll, but to the longer, more ancient, and more comprehensive one of the Sons of Caledonia.

NOTES FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE BOTANICAL SOCIETY
ON ITS ORIGIN, HISTORY, AND PRIVILEGES. By SYMINGTON
GRIEVE.

(Read 10th April 1902.)

The Botanical Society was formed on the 17th of March 1836, at a meeting held in Professor Graham's Classroom at the College, Edinburgh, and was presided over by Dr. J. H. Balfour (afterwards Professor J. H. Balfour),

and it was resolved to form a Society, with Professor Graham as President, and Mr. James M'Nab, Curator. An Herbarium and Library were to be formed, and donations of plants and books received, and also plants and books to be purchased. This work was carried on with great energy, and the Society immediately took a position in the botanical world, which made it of great use, not only to its members, but to the University of Edinburgh.

From its inception the Society was closely associated with the Royal Botanic Garden, at which it has, during each year of its existence, by the courtesy of the Professor of Botany, held its three summer meetings—the first of these having taken place on 12th May 1836. As it seemed desirable to the President and Council of the Society that they should become more fully acquainted with the history of the Society and its relation to the University and to the Royal Botanic Garden, the following notes have been extracted from its archives :—

Amalgamation of the Botanical Society's Herbarium and that of the College, etc. Also regarding the Botanical Society's Library.

At a meeting of the Society, held in the Royal Institution, 8th November 1838, "The Treasurer read a copy of a Petition, signed by the majority of the Council of the Botanical Society, dated 30th July 1838, and presented to the Town Council of Edinburgh, praying that, as Patrons of the University, they would consent to a union between the Botanical Society's Herbarium and that belonging to the College. A letter from the President to the Town Council annexed to the Petition, containing a recommendation of the proposed union, was also read. The Treasurer stated that the Petition had been favourably received by the Patrons, and remitted by them to the Senators for further consideration. The President mentioned that the Petition had been duly considered by the Senatus, and a Committee appointed, of which he was Convener, to arrange the terms for carrying into effect the desired union, and that he had no doubt the matter would, in a very short time, be satisfactorily adjusted."

At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Botanical Society, held at 62 Great King Street, 1st December 1838, at 2 P.M., "The President stated, with reference to the proposed union with the College Herbarium, that he was not aware that any serious obstacle now existed to prevent its being carried into effect, and that, as Convener of the Committee of Senators to which the matter had been remitted, he would call an early meeting to endeavour to get the arrangement carried into effect with as little delay as possible."

At the ordinary meeting of the Botanical Society, held 10th January 1839, it was reported by the Committee that "they had the satisfaction of stating that the arrangements, which have for some time been in progress with the Patrons and the Senators of the University, have now been brought to a close, and that both of these bodies have unanimously agreed to the union of the College Herbarium with that belonging to the Botanical Society on the terms proposed. In the course of the following week an Extract will be obtained from the Records of the Town Council containing the terms of the arrangement, which will be submitted to the Society at the next ordinary meeting.

"In the meantime it may be satisfactory to state that the Society will thus obtain the (*permanent*) *use of apartments* in the University already fitted up for the reception of their Herbarium, and that the collections belonging to the University may now be arranged along with those of the Society."

At the ordinary meeting of the Society, held 10th January 1839, the Secretary invited the members to assist him with work at the Society's Rooms in the College daily from ten to four o'clock.

At the ordinary meeting of the Society, held 14th March 1839, it was reported that the Committee of Management have to notice with peculiar satisfaction the union which has taken place with the College Herbarium — the whole of which, along with the use of the apartments and cabinets in which it is contained, has been *conveyed over to the Society as the perpetual Curators of it*, with permission to arrange the specimens

and distribute the duplicates as they shall think proper.

The following extracts from the Minutes of the Town Council of the City of Edinburgh explain what took place and what arrangement was made:—

EXCERPT from Minute of Meeting of the Town Council,
9th January 1839.

Read a Report by the College Committee to which was remitted Memorial and Petition of the Botanical Society; which Memorial and Petition, Letter from Professor Graham thereto appended, and Report of the Committee are of the following tenor:—

To the Honourable the Patrons of the University of Edinburgh, the Memorial and Petition of the undersigned Office-bearers of the Botanical Society, for themselves, and in name of the Society, humbly sheweth—

That the Botanical Society was originated in March 1836 by the Professor of Botany and some of the more advanced cultivators of this science in the city and neighbourhood.

The objects for which it was instituted were threefold—

(1) To form a general Herbarium, on scientific principles, for the use and information of members, as well as all other students of Botany.

(2) To establish a system of exchange, by which plants from every country should be brought to Edinburgh as to a common centre, and from thence as widely dispersed among those who should enrol themselves as applicants for these, and the terms prescribed; and

(3) To promote, by correspondence, essays, and other means, a well regulated taste for the study of Botany, an accurate inquiry respecting the phenomena of vegetation, and a general investigation into the properties and uses of plants.

That the Society, which at its origin consisted but of twenty-one members, has in little more than two years become increased tenfold, its members amounting to about two hundred, of whom twenty-six are honorary members, eighty-two resident, sixty-four non-resident, and twenty-seven foreign members, comprehending most of the distinguished names in botanical science throughout the world.

That the objects which the Society had in view at its foundation have already been carried out to a very considerable extent.

A large collection of British and Foreign plants has been acquired (the Countess Dowager of Dalhousie alone having munificently presented the Society with about 1500 species of rare and valuable Indian plants, collected under her own immediate superintendence), and not less than 150,000 specimens from all parts of the globe have been contributed by members, a great proportion of which have again been as widely circulated among public institutions and individual collectors of Herbaria.

That Her Majesty has been graciously pleased to honour the Society by becoming its Patron, and its design has received the general approbation and support of botanists both at home and abroad.

It has also recently provided an appropriate diploma and seal, for the better distinguishing of its members and for attaching them more decidedly to the pursuit of its objects.

That the Society have hitherto, by the kindness of the Professor of Botany, been allowed to hold their meetings (which occur monthly) in the Botanical Classroom, and have also been favoured, by him with the use of the apartments in the College appropriated to the University Herbarium for the storing of their collections, and for effecting their annual distribution of plants.

That being now firmly established, the Society are proceeding to classify and arrange their collections, for which purpose they have had an Assistant-Curator, with a salary, constantly employed since the middle of December last, and from the scale on which their operations are now necessarily carried on, they find that his services will henceforth be permanently required.

That the Society, having for their chief object to advance the cause of botanical science, and thereby promote the public benefit, it has occurred to them that the collections of plants which have from time to time been transmitted to the College, and are now deposited in an unarranged state in the apartments above mentioned, so as to be wholly unavailable for scientific purposes, might with great advantage for all parties *be handed over to the Society*, as

well as the permanent use of these apartments, in order that a general Herbarium might be formed in connection with the University, to which all who cultivate the science of botany might have ready access for reference and study.

That the Society, if this were granted, would immediately proceed to classify and arrange the joint collections, and would agree that they should become the University Herbarium, of which, however, the Society should continue perpetual Curators, *but the Professor of Botany, for the time, to be Honorary Curator*, with free access to the collection, whether a member of the Society or not.

That, as the plants belonging to the Society already outnumber those belonging to the College, and as much expense must be incurred in their arrangement and preservation, it is to be hoped that the Honourable Patrons will be satisfied that the Society, in making the foregoing proposition, can have no other object than that of promoting the science they cultivate, and the general interests of the University where that science is so zealously, ably, and successfully taught.

May it therefore please the Honourable Patrons to take this Memorial into their favourable consideration, and accede to the proposal now made on behalf of the Botanical Society, and your Petitioners shall ever pray, etc.

Signed—J. H. Balfour, Vice-President; Robert Kaye Greville, LL.D., Councillor; Dav. Falconer, Vice-President; R. Christison, Vice-President; John Percy, Councillor; Pat. Neill, Vice-President; William M'Nab, Councillor; Wm. Brand, Treasurer; James MacNab, Curator; W. H. Campbell, Secretary.

LETTER from Professor Graham, dated 30th July 1838—

My Lord Provost and Gentlemen,—Having read the foregoing Petition, I beg to express my anxiety that its prayer should be acceded to. Without some such arrangement I feel sure that the University Collection will, as from its first beginning in the period of the late Dr. Hope, remain utterly useless. With such an arrangement I feel equally sure that the Collection as it now stands will be made available, and that before long it will form only a

fragment of a much greater and very valuable collection, which it is very liberally proposed shall become the property of the University.

ROB. GRAHAM, Professor of Botany.

REPORT of the College Committee, dated 27th December 1838.

The College Committee, having resumed consideration of this Petition, and having communicated on the subject with the *Senatus Academicus* and with the Petitioners, are of opinion that the prayer thereof may be granted by the Magistrates and Council, with these explanations and conditions, viz.—

1. That the Society are to have no right of property in the rooms set apart for the University Herbarium, but that these are to be held by them during the pleasure of the Council and on condition that they shall remove therefrom at the term of Whitsunday on getting six months' previous notice, it being understood that in this event, or in the event of the Society removing because of the apartments allotted for them becoming either inadequate or unsuitable, they are to be entitled to take the collections along with them, and also any cabinets, etc., which they may have fitted up, but with this proviso always, that in either case the collections should continue to be the University Herbarium just as before.

2. That the members of the *Senatus* shall ex officio have access to the joint collection at all times.

3. That the Professor of Botany, besides being Honorary Curator, shall be entitled for the instruction of his class to take out from the joint collections such portions thereof from time to time as he shall think necessary, the same being always duly restored, and that the Professor of *Materia Medica* shall have the same privilege with respect to his class.

4. That a Report of the state and progress of the Herbarium shall be annually presented to the *Senatus* and the Town Council by the day of

JAMES STARK, B.

The Magistrates and Council approved of the foregoing Report, and granted and declared accordingly.

Further Excerpts—

19th May 1839.—There was laid on the table a Report by the Botanical Society on the state and progress of the University Herbarium as at October 1839.

9th November 1841.—Read the following letter from the interim Secretary of the Botanical Society, Edinburgh, 1st November 1841:—

Sir,—I beg leave to send herewith for preservation to the Council a copy of the Fourth and Fifth Annual Reports for the Botanical Society, containing in Appendix, at page 82, the Society's Report on the state and progress of the University Herbarium, etc., under their charge.—
I am, etc.,

WM. BRAND, Interim Secretary.

In the Report of the Committee presented to the Botanical Society at the ordinary meeting held 14th November 1839, it is mentioned that Mr. Kellerman, the Assistant-Curator, "has been chiefly engaged in cleaning and arranging the various collections which belonged to the College Herbarium. This arduous task has now been nearly completed (a boy having been engaged to assist the Curator and expedite the work).

At the meeting of the Society held in the Royal Institution on 12th December 1839, a letter from Dr. Neill was read, stating that the Patrons of the University had agreed to fit up with gas and size-paint two additional rooms for the use of the Society, and that it was hoped Dr. Traill might be accommodated elsewhere.

Dr. Graham, on resigning the Chair, congratulated the Society on the very rapid progress which it had made.

Dr. Greville, on taking the Chair, thanked the Society. He alluded to the services of their late President, under whose auspices the Society had made such progress, and to whose exertions they owed many of their most important privileges. He reminded them that the Society had, through him, obtained a room for their meetings in the College, and accommodation for their Herbarium; that he had effected a union with the College Herbarium, and *acquired for the Society a (permanent)¹ right to the apartments and cabinets*

¹The right was not permanent, see preceding page (p. 200).

in which it is placed; that through his influence chiefly the patronage of the Queen had been obtained. That the use of a room for the summer meetings of the Society at the Botanic Garden continued to be granted by him.

In the Minutes of the meeting of the Botanical Society, 12th June 1845, it is stated that "*the Office-bearers, together with the Professor of Botany, constitute the regularly appointed Custodiers of the University Herbarium.*"

In a statement read to the Society by its Treasurer, Mr. Brand, at a meeting held at 6 York Place on 14th January 1847, it is mentioned that the balance in the Society's favour was only £14 or £15, and that the Assistant-Curator was unpaid, and it was agreed to pay him £10 as part payment of his salary, and Professor Balfour mentioned that he intended to bring the subject of the University Herbarium under the notice of the Senatus, and he hoped some allowance would be made for the purpose of defraying the expenses connected with it.

At a meeting of the Council, held at 5 Northumberland Street, 4th November 1857, it was remitted to Professor Balfour, along with Mr. P. N. Fraser, Mr. M'Farlane, and Dr. Lawson, to arrange with the Janitor of the College for cleaning and heating the Society's rooms there.

Although hardly a meeting took place without donations of plants for the Herbarium or books for the Library being announced, an important event now happened which enriched the Society considerably. The following intimation explains this. It was read at an ordinary meeting of the Botanical Society, held at 6 York Place, on 10th December 1857:—

"At a meeting of the Wernerian Natural History Society, called by public advertisement, held in the Anatomical Room at the College, on Saturday, 28th November 1857, it was unanimously resolved that the said Society be dissolved, and, if agreeable to the Royal Physical Society and the Botanical Society, that a union be formed with them on the following terms:—

"(1) That the members of the Wernerian Natural History Society should be received as members of the foresaid Societies, preserving the privileges (whether as life

or annual members) which they enjoyed as members of the Wernerian.

"(2) That two-thirds of the funds belonging to the Wernerian Society be given to the Royal Physical, and one-third to the Botanical Society.

"(3) That all books on botanical subjects be given to the Botanical Society. That all other books, except such as may be required for completing works in the College Library, be handed over to the Royal Physical Society.

"(4) That the furniture of the Wernerian Society be handed to the Botanical Society.

"(5) That the specimens in Natural History be transferred to the College Museum.

"(6) That the Minute Books of the Society and other private documents be deposited in the College Library."

To carry the above into effect, Professors Goodsir and Balfour have conferred with the two Societies forenamed, and arranged that, in receiving the property to be assigned to them, these Societies shall undertake all the responsibilities which at present belong to the Wernerian Society.

On the motion of Dr. Sellar, seconded by Mr. Murray, the proposal of the Wernerian Natural History Society was cordially approved of by the Botanical Society and accepted accordingly, and the Council was empowered to carry out the arrangement on the above terms.

At an ordinary meeting of the Botanical Society, held at 6 York Place, on 11th February 1858, it was announced by the Secretary that, at a meeting held on 23rd January 1858, the Wernerian Society had confirmed the resolution of their previous meeting, with only one dissentient, a Dr. Macdonald, who protested that any of the funds or effects of the Wernerian Society should be handed over to the Botanical Society, and threatened legal proceedings.

The members of the Wernerian Society altered the terms of the transfer, so that, in the event of Dr. Macdonald bringing an action, they were to be protected by each of the Societies—the Royal Physical and the Botanical—up to the value of the property each received from the Wernerian Society.

On the motion of Mr. Anderson, seconded by Mr. Fraser, it was agreed that the Botanical Society should

relieve the members of the Wernerian Society as stipulated for under this new condition.

From the Financial Statement of the Botanical Society, November 1857 to November 1858, submitted to the Society 9th December 1858, it appears that the cash received from the Wernerian Society amounted to £72, 5s., and cash obtained for books and forms of that Society, £5, 13s.,—in all, £77, 18s. However, even with this sum handed to it, the Botanical Society was in such arrears with its payments that, after paying its printing account, which was due for three years, and other expenses, they had only a balance of £59, 13s. 8d. to carry forward to the next year.

At a meeting of the Society, held in 5 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on 12th March 1863, the following letter from the President, Professor Douglas Maclagan, regarding the change of the Society's Herbarium and Library Rooms at the College, was read:—

28 HERIOT ROW, 12th March 1863.

Dear Sir,—I regret that an unavoidable engagement will prevent me from being at the meeting of the Botanical Society this evening, and I have therefore to request that you will bring before the Society, at private business, the following statement regarding the accommodation of that portion of the Herbarium which is at present in the University.

Since my appointment to the Chair of Medical Jurisprudence there has been found the greatest difficulty in providing me with the apartments necessary for the business of my class.

After much fruitless search, it was found that no other place was available except the rooms occupied by the Botanical Society. It was, at the same time, found no less difficult to discover a place in the College to which the Society could be transferred, and the Senatus accordingly agreed to grant a sum of money to take a room somewhere out of the College for the Society, but when I came to make the necessary inquiries it was found impossible to get suitable rooms at a reasonable rent in a convenient locality.

At this juncture Mr. Cameron, the University Janitor, placed at the disposal of the Senatus a room forming part of his house, sufficiently large to hold the Herbarium presses, and to allow of the work of distribution of specimens, etc., being carried on.

The difficulties which had to be surmounted in this matter, and which I need not detail, left so little time for altering the rooms before the commencement of my lectures, that it was necessary to take prompt action in regard to the Botanical Society's effects. After consultation, therefore, with Professor Balfour, it was agreed to accept Mr. Cameron's offer, and under sanction of the House Committee of the University, the Society's presses have all been safely moved, and the room, as you know, is now available for the purposes of the Society.

I have to apologise for not having formally brought this before the Society previous to removing the presses, but there was no time to be lost, and I trust to the Society granting me a bill of indemnity for thus acting, on the consideration that it is better that it should be accommodated within than without the University.

The benches, etc., belonging to the Society which were in the other room, and not in actual use, are all put aside in a secure place.

Let me remind the Society that they have not a permanent right to rooms in the University; that on receiving six months' previous notice the Society must remove from the University at any May term that the Senatus may desire,¹ and it was only the fact of my not being inducted in time enough, to give this notice, that the Society had not to remove at the ensuing Whitsunday.

It is more than probable that notice will be given in time to make the removal necessary next year.

As this would throw the expense of finding accommodation on the Society, I venture to suggest that we ought

¹ This action of Professor Douglas MacLagan caused a good deal of strong feeling among the members of the Society, who felt aggrieved. It appears that Professor Douglas MacLagan made a mistake, and did himself a great injustice in acting as he did, but he was so popular that the event was soon forgotten. The Senatus of the University should have given the Society six months' notice, which they did not do.

at once to address a strong memorial to the Commissioners for Woods and Forests, urging the importance of adding more accommodation to the present Museum in the Botanic Garden, and thus enabling us to have the whole of our valuable collection in one place.

Have the goodness to lay this before the Society this evening.—And believe me to be yours truly,

John Sadler, Esq.

DOUGLAS MACLAGAN.

The meeting appointed Professors MacLagan, Archer, and Balfour a Committee to draw up a Memorial to the Commissioners of H.M. Works, urging upon their Lordships the necessity of providing more accommodation at the Royal Botanic Garden for the Herbarium and Library.

At the meeting of the Society held on 9th April 1863, the Minutes of the meeting of 12th March 1863 were read and approved.

The following Memorial to the First Commissioner of H.M. Office of Works asking for more accommodation at the Botanic Garden for the University Herbarium was also adopted at the meeting of 9th April 1863:—

To the Honourable the First Commissioner of Works,

The Memorial of the President and Fellows of the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, humbly sheweth—

That the President and Fellows of the Botanical Society were appointed by the Patrons of the University in 1839¹ Joint-Curators of the University Herbarium, along with the Professor of Botany.

That in 1851² an arrangement was made with the Office of Works, by which it was agreed that accommodation should be granted for the Herbarium in rooms at the Royal Botanic Garden.

That the collection was thereafter transferred to the Garden, and that it has been ever since accessible to every one who wishes to consult it.

That the accommodation is now totally inadequate for the purpose, and that thus the collection of plants has

¹ Should be 9th January 1839.

² No note in Minutes of any such arrangement in 1851 or about that year.

been materially injured and its usefulness impaired for want of room.

That, in consequence of want of accommodation at the Garden, part of the specimens are now deposited in a room in the Janitor's house at the College.

That the cases holding the collection interfere at present with the prosecution of Botany in consequence of diminishing the size of the room in which the students meet for practical work with the microscope.

In these circumstances your Memorialists humbly request that you will authorise steps to be taken for securing additional accommodation at the Garden for this very valuable collection of plants, which is the only public Herbarium in Scotland.

Nothing seems to have come from this Memorial.

The Minutes of the meeting, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, 14th December 1871, were signed by the President, Professor Wyville Thomson, on approval 11th January 1872. These are the first Minutes of the Society that are signed.

At this same meeting a Committee was appointed, of which Dr. Craig was Convener, to examine and report on the present state and position of the Society's Library.

At a meeting of the Council of the Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 30th January 1872, Dr. Craig reported that he had visited the Society's Library, along with Professor Balfour and Mr. Sadler, and he was of opinion that there were upwards of 1000 volumes in the Library, and that at least one-half of them required to be bound. To put the books in order, make a catalogue, and provide cases for them would, he thought, cost fully £100. He suggested that a Committee might be appointed to ascertain whether Government would be disposed to take the Library under their own charge, and accommodate it in the Herbarium Hall at the Botanic Garden.

After some discussion, it was remitted to Professor Balfour to have an interview with Dr. Lyon Playfair, and Mr. Matheson of H.M. Office of Works, on the matter, before taking any decisive steps.

The Council held a meeting at 5 St. Andrew Square on 5th March 1872, and at that meeting the following Minutes of the meeting of the Library Committee, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, 5th March 1872, were read, which were as follows:—

Present—Dr. Craig, Convener; Mr. Buchan, Mr. Evans, and Mr. Sadler.

Dr. Craig stated that Professor Balfour had reported to him that he had had an interview with Mr. Matheson, of H.M. Office of Works, on the subject of handing over the Society's Library to the Government, and Mr. Matheson was of opinion that the Society should make an offer of the Library, in the first instance, to Professor Balfour, as Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden, and he to bring the matter under the notice of Government.

This the Committee agreed to recommend to the Council.

After some remarks from the Chairman (Professor Wyville Thomson) and Professor Balfour, the Council decided to bring the recommendation of the Library Committee before the next general meeting of the Society.

The matter was brought up at the meeting of the Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 14th March 1872.

It was moved by Dr. Anderson Henry, and seconded by Mr. Buchan, that the consideration of the recommendation of the Council as to the Society's Library be delayed till the April meeting, when it would be disposed of. A notice to this effect to be put on the April billet.

The Council of the Society met at 5 St. Andrew Square, 30th April 1872.

The following letter, drawn up by the Library Committee in accordance with instructions received at last general meeting, was read and authorised to be transmitted to Professor Balfour. The letter referred to read as follows:—

BOTANICAL SOCIETY'S ROOMS, 5 ST. ANDREW SQUARE,
EDINBURGH, 23rd April 1872.

To Professor Balfour,

Regius Keeper of the Royal Botanic Garden.

Sir,—We are authorised by the Botanical Society of Edinburgh to offer, through you, the Library of the Society to H.M. Board of Works, for the purpose of forming a

nucleus of a consulting library for the Herbarium in the Royal Botanic Garden of Edinburgh.

The Library consists of about 1000 volumes, and many of the books are valuable and useful for Herbarium work. You are aware that the Herbarium at the Garden is open to the public, as well as to the members of the Society, and many of them consult it. There has, however, been long felt a want of books to consult in the examination of plants.

The Society are aware that you, as Regius Keeper of the Garden, have endeavoured to remedy this defect by granting visitors the use of books from your own private library.

The Society believe that no public collection of dried specimens of plants can be available for scientific purposes without a consulting library.

They therefore wish for the sake of the public, and for the advancement of Botanical Science, to do what they can to supply the deficiency.

The Society will hand over to the Government the entire Library, and continue to send any botanical works which they may from time to time receive, on the understanding that the Government will provide for their accommodation and keeping, and that they will be open for consultation to the members of the Botanical Society, as well as to the public who may wish to consult the Herbarium.

The Society have desired us to send this communication to you, with the request that you will forward it to headquarters, with such a statement as you may think necessary to make. The Society believe that by this offer they are conferring a great favour on the public—that they are enhancing the value of the Herbarium at the Garden—as well as contributing in no small degree to the promotion of Botanical Science, and are thus endeavouring to secure for Scotland what England already possesses in the valuable Government Library at Kew.

We enclose an extract from the Minutes of the Botanical Society, authorising us to make this offer.

Signed in the name and by the authority of the Library Committee.

WILLIAM CRAIG, M.D., C.M.,

Chairman of Library Committee.

At the meeting of the Society held in the Classroom, Royal Botanic Garden, 9th May 1872, it was reported by Professor J. H. Balfour that he had transmitted the letter from the Society to Government regarding the handing over of the Library to Mr. Ayrton, of H.M. Treasury, through Dr. Lyon Playfair, and that Dr. Playfair was to take the first opportunity of forwarding it.

The following is a copy of the letter sent by Professor J. H. Balfour to the Right Hon. A. J. Ayrton:—

ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN,
EDINBURGH, 16th May 1872.

Dear Sir,—As Regius Keeper of the Edinburgh Botanic Garden, I have received the enclosed letter from the Botanical Society of Edinburgh, and now confirm it, with the request contained in it. I now forward it to you by the Hon. Commissioners of H.M. Works. At the same time I take the liberty of urging strongly the propriety of accepting the generous offer of the Society. I have long been asking for means of providing a consulting library in connection with the Herbarium in the Garden, and it is with great pleasure that I now transmit the Society's offer.

The Library contains many valuable books, which will be most serviceable to those who consult the Herbarium. I have long felt that the usefulness of the collection was much impaired by the want of books.

I hope, therefore, that I shall be authorised to receive the gifts on the part of the Government, and that I may ask a letter to allow *uniting the books in the Herbarium Rooms*.

I am satisfied as to the value of the Library, and I venture . . . ¹ to you the propriety of accepting it.—Your obedient Servant,
J. H. B.

At a meeting of the Council of the Botanical Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, 5th June 1872, Professor Balfour read a letter from Mr. Ayrton, of H.M. Treasury, which had been addressed to Dr. Lyon

¹ A few words in this letter cannot be read, possibly the words omitted are "*to suggest*."

Playfair in answer to the letter transmitted by the Society through Dr. Playfair to Government regarding the handing over of the Library. Mr. Ayrton says: "It seems very desirable to carry through the proposal, and I will urge it on the Treasury as soon as I have had the estimate made of the expenses."

At a meeting of the Council of the Botanical Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, 2nd July 1872, Professor J. H. Balfour stated that Mr. Matheson, of H.M. Board of Works, had visited the Botanic Garden according to instructions received from Mr. Ayrton, and had made an estimate as to the probable expense of providing room and cases for the Library. Mr. Matheson's report would be submitted to Government.

At a meeting of the Council of the Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, 5th November 1872, Professor J. H. Balfour reported the building for the accommodation of the Society's Library was now in progress.

The Society met at 5 St. Andrew Square, Edinburgh, on 14th November 1872, and the following letter from Mr. Matheson, of H.M. Office of Works, to Professor Balfour was read:—

H.M. OFFICE OF WORKS,
EDINBURGH, 30th September 1872.

Dear Sir,—With reference to my communication with you regarding accommodation for the Library of the Botanical Society offered to the public, I have to state that the Lords Commissioners of H.M. Treasury having sanctioned the expenditure necessary for the accommodation for the books, etc., I have been directed by the First Commissioner of H.M. Works, etc., to proceed with the erection of an apartment adjoining the Herbarium of the Royal Botanic Garden and supply the necessary cases and shelving.—I am, dear Sir, yours faithfully,

ROBT. MATHESON.

At a meeting of the Botanical Society, held 14th December 1876, Professor J. H. Balfour submitted a circular letter he was issuing regarding the Botanical Society of Edinburgh having presented their collection of

books to the Government—"These, with additions since received, are now arranged in a room connected with the Herbarium at the Royal Botanic Garden."

Note.—Donations to the Herbarium from all sources used to be reported to the Society, and minuted in a general way. This should still be done, as the Society are curators.

Important. — At a meeting of the Council of the Botanical Society, held 5th February 1884, Mr. Andrew Taylor, the Assistant-Secretary, intimated that he had received, as Secretary, an additional £1 stg., making in all £2 this session, from Dr. Peter White, Yetholm, for duplicate British plants from the Herbarium, and asked instructions as to the disposal of the money.

A Committee, consisting of Professor Dickson, Messrs. Neill Fraser, and Taylor, as Convener, was appointed to report as to the Society's right of property in its duplicate plant specimens for distribution, in connection with the gift of its general Herbarium to the University.

The Committee reported at a meeting of the Council of the Society, held 3rd March 1884, as follows:—

"The Committee beg to report that the specimens in question are in a very confused condition as regards labels, etc.; that it is ten years since the Society last received money on account of duplicate specimens; and that, considering all the circumstances of the case, it is expedient that the Society relinquish any claim of property it may have in its duplicates in favour of the University Herbarium; and that the £2 in question be paid over to the Herbarium Fund."

The Council agreed to recommend the Society to adopt this report.

The Society at its meeting, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 13th March 1884, agreed to the disposal of the duplicate specimens at the Herbarium as recommended by the Council.

At a meeting of the Council, held 4th November 1884, a Committee was nominated to approach the Government with the view of getting them to purchase all or part of the library of the late Isaac Anderson Henry, Esq., for the Government Library at the Royal Botanic Garden.

The Committee was appointed at the meeting of the Society held 13th November 1884.

At a meeting of the Council, held 2nd December 1884, "Mr. Taylor made a report, as requested at last meeting of the Society, as to the terms on which the Society gifted their collection of books to the Government Library at the Royal Botanic Garden. In this report the letter offering the books to Government was quoted (ex Minute of Library Committee, 23rd April 1872, and adopted as an instrument of the Society on 30th April 1872)—this letter given in full, page 11.

"Considerable discussion followed the giving of this report, especially regarding the manner, and by whom, the presents of books which the Society from time to time received should be acknowledged and handed over to Government. Ultimately the matter was left over to a subsequent meeting of Council."

At the meeting of the Council held 2nd February 1885, "The consideration of the form of acknowledgment for books received by the Society was referred to a Committee composed of Prof. Dickson, Mr. Taylor, and the Assistant-Secretary (Dr. J. M. Macfarlane), with power to draw up a suitable form for the approval of the Council."

At a meeting of the Council of the Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, 1st April 1890, "Prof. Balfour stated that he was glad to inform the Council that a *Curatorship of the Herbarium and Library had been established by Government*, and that the salary of £130, rising by increments to £200, had been voted for the purpose as an annual grant."

At a meeting of the Council, held at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 30th December 1890, Mr. Lindsay, President, in the chair,

A letter was read from Prof. J. B. Balfour, suggesting that the Society publish its Proceedings monthly. In that letter, Prof. Balfour refers to the close relationship between the Royal Botanic Garden and the Botanical Society, as follows :—

"I do not need to point out the intimate connection that there has always been between the Society and the Garden, and everyone would, I am sure, deprecate any step

that might in the smallest degree produce a tendency to separation. The Garden has benefited by the Society, the Society has benefited by the Garden, and procedure that led to separate publication of results of work done in the Garden would unquestionably tend to injure the Society, and in so doing would injure the Garden itself.

"The publications of the Society go a long way to bringing of exchange books to the Garden Library, and it is therefore clearly on that ground alone, if on no other, the interest of those charged with the maintenance of the Garden to keep a jealous watch over the publications of the Society, to endeavour to support these, and to make them as valuable as possible. It would be suicidal in present circumstances to bring out a Garden Bulletin which would be practically a rival of the publications of the Society."

I feel sure that our members will generally agree with the sentiments of Professor J. B. Balfour as expressed in the foregoing letter.

*Her Late Majesty Queen Victoria becomes Patron of the
Society.*

At a meeting of the Society, held at the Royal Botanic Garden, on 14th June 1838, "The Secretary stated that a letter had been received by Dr. Graham (letter in Dr. Balfour's possession) from Wm. Gibson-Craig, Esq., M.P., enclosing a communication from Lord John Russell, intimating that Her Majesty had been graciously pleased to become Patron of the Botanical Society.

At the meeting of the Society held in the Royal Institution, on 14th February 1839, there was exhibited an impression of the Society's Diploma on white satin for presentation to Her Majesty the Queen.

Address to the Queen upon Her Majesty's marriage to Prince Albert, read at meeting of the Botanical Society, 13th February 1840.

At the meeting of the Society held on 12th March 1840, it was proposed that Professor Graham be requested to bring under the notice of H.R.H. Prince Albert the desire of the Botanical Society to elect him a British Honorary Member.

At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Society, held on 14th May 1840, a letter from the Private Secretary of H.R.H. Prince Albert was read, stating that the Prince would have much pleasure in seeing his name enrolled amongst the Honorary Members of the Botanical Society. The Prince was duly elected by acclamation.

Letters of congratulation was sent by the Botanical Society to Her Majesty on the birth of the Princess Royal, afterwards Dowager Empress of Germany; and again on the birth of the Prince of Wales, now His Majesty King Edward VII.

At a meeting of the Society, held at 6 York Place, on 9th January 1862, a letter of condolence to Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the death of H.R.H. Prince Albert, the Prince Consort.

Sir George Grey acknowledged receipt of this letter through his Secretary, on 14th January 1862.

Prince of Wales.

At a meeting held on 12th March 1863, Professors Maclagan, Archer, and Balfour were appointed a Committee to prepare and transmit a congratulatory address to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales.

At the meeting of the Society held on 9th April 1863, on the motion of the President (Professor Douglas Maclagan), and carried by acclamation, H.R.H. the Prince of Wales was elected an Honorary British Fellow of the Society.

A congratulatory address upon the occasion of his marriage with Princess Alexandra of Denmark was ordered to be transmitted to His Royal Highness through the proper quarter.

At a meeting of the Botanical Society, held at the Royal Botanic Garden on 14th May 1863, a copy of the Society's Diploma, coloured by Dr. Greville, with leather case mounted with silver, for presentation to H.R.H. the Prince of Wales, were subjected to the meeting.

On the 11th June 1863, a letter was submitted to the meeting at the Royal Botanic Garden from Lieut.-General Knollys, conveying the thanks of H.R.H. the Prince of Wales for his election as a member of the Society, and also for the Diploma sent him.

IN 1901, ON HIS ACCESSION TO THE THRONE AS
 KING EDWARD VII., HIS MAJESTY GRACIOUSLY
 BECAME PATRON OF THE SOCIETY.

At the meeting held at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 12th November 1863, on the motion of the President, Professor Douglas MacLagan, H.R.H. Prince Alfred was elected by acclamation a British Honorary Fellow of the Society. Professor MacLagan, President; Professor Balfour, Vice-President; and Dr. Greville, Secretary, were appointed a Committee to prepare and present the Society's Diploma to the Prince.

On 10th December 1863, a letter was submitted to the meeting from Major Cowell, conveying the thanks of H.R.H. Prince Alfred to the Society for his election as an Honorary Member.

Professor Balfour also intimated that the deputation appointed at last meeting had waited upon His Royal Highness at Holyrood Palace, and presented it to him.

His Royal Highness attended a special meeting of the Botanical Society, held in the Royal Society's Rooms, Mound, Edinburgh, 24th March 1864, and inscribed his name on the roll of members.

At the meeting of the Society held at the Royal Botanic Garden, on 14th May 1868, on the motion of Professor J. H. Balfour, a loyal address was voted to the Queen expressing the Society's gratification at the deliverance of H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh from the hand of the assassin, and also one to the Duke to a similar effect.

At the meeting held on 11th June 1868, the Secretary laid on the table a letter from the Secretary of State (Gathorne Hardy) in reply to the loyal address which the Society had forwarded to Her Majesty the Queen, and which she had been graciously pleased to accept.

At the meeting of the Society held on 9th July 1868, the Secretary laid on the table a letter from Colonel Augustus Liddell in reply to the address sent to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh, stating His Royal Highness had been graciously pleased to accept it.

Resolved at meeting of Society held at 5 St. Andrew Square, 12th February 1874, "To send an address of

congratulation to H.R.H. the Duke of Edinburgh on the occasion of his marriage to H.I.H. the Grand Duchess Marie Alexandrovna of Russia."

The draft of the address was approved at a meeting held at 5 St. Andrew Square, 9th April 1874, and the Secretary authorised to forward it.

A letter of thanks, written by command of his Royal Highness, and dated from Clarence House, St. James', S.W., 13th April 1874, was duly received by the President and Fellows of the Botanical Society.

A letter of condolence, agreed to at the January meeting, to be sent to Her Majesty Queen Victoria on the death of the Princess Alice, was read at the meeting of the Society held at 5 St. Andrew Square on 4th February 1879, and the President and Hon. Secretary were authorised to sign it on behalf of the Society, and forward it to the Home Secretary for presentation.

Letter of thanks received, dated 18th February 1879, and submitted to the Society at their meeting, 13th March 1879.

At a meeting held at the Royal Botanic Garden on 9th June 1887, it was resolved to send an address from the Society to Her Majesty Queen Victoria congratulating her upon her Jubilee.

An acknowledgment was duly received from the Marquis of Lothian through his Secretary, dated 29th June 1887, stating that the address had been duly forwarded for presentation to Her Majesty.

The Secretary of State wrote from Whitehall, 19th July 1887, stating that Her Majesty had received the address "very graciously."

The Society met at 5 St. Andrew Square on 14th January 1892, and after the private business adjourned, owing to the death of H.R.H. the Duke of Clarence.

At a meeting of the Council of the Botanical Society, held at 5 St. Andrew Square on 5th February 1901, it was remitted to the President and Colonel Bailey to draw up an address to be presented to the King on the occasion of his succession to the throne.

On the motion of Dr. William Craig, it was agreed that the forthcoming billet be printed on white paper with

a mourning margin, out of respect to the memory of the late Patron of the Society, Her Majesty Queen Victoria.

At the meeting of the Botanical Society held at 5 St. Andrew Square 14th February 1901, the address of condolence with the King was read and adopted.

*Other Royal Personages who are, or have been, Members
of the Botanical Society.*

His Majesty the King of Saxony, elected 10th January 1839 a Foreign Honorary Member.

His Majesty Frederick William III., King of Prussia, elected a Foreign Honorary Member 11th April 1839.

His Majesty King Oscar II. of Sweden, elected a Royal Honorary Fellow 10th January 1878. Letter of thanks sent by direction of the King, per his Minister in London, read at the meeting of the Society 14th March 1878.

In addition to the above, His Late Imperial Majesty the Emperor of Brazil was an Honorary Fellow of the Society, who joined in December 1874.

APPENDIX.

CURATOR.

Mr. James McNab appointed first Curator 17th March 1836. Resigned at meeting 10th November 1836, but was prevailed upon to continue in office as Joint-Curator.

8th December 1836.—At meeting held at the College, Mr. Stewart appointed Joint-Curator along with Mr. McNab.

10th December 1840.—At a meeting of the Committee of Management of the Society, it was proposed to elect, in addition to the other Office-bearers, a Curator of the Library, as it was increasing so fast. The Council resolved to postpone consideration.

At a meeting held on 13th May 1841, Mr. Brand gave notice of a motion—"That it is inexpedient that any extra Academical Teacher of Botany should in future hold the office of Curator of the Society's Herbarium and Library."

At the meeting of the Society held at the Royal Botanic Garden 10th June 1841, the above motion was moved by Mr. Brand, seconded by Mr. Campbell, and carried unanimously.

Considering the altered circumstances, and the invaluable services rendered to the Society by extra Academical Teachers of Botany, the Society might well consider the advisability of having the above motion rescinded.

At a meeting of the Society, held 14th April 1842, a Memorial and

Petition to Government for aid in defraying the salary of a Curator was read and approved. Mr. Brand intends to present this when in London.

On the 12th May 1842, at the usual meeting of the Society, Mr. Brand reported, on the part of the Committee of Management, as to his proceedings in London with respect to obtaining an annual grant for the salary of a Curator for the Society's Museum.

From the third Annual Report by the Botanical Society, on the state and progress of the University Herbarium and the Botanical Library connected with it, there was evidently a want of funds, and an acting and salaried Assistant-Curator could not be appointed. This was at the end of 1843, but at the meeting held on 11th July 1844 it was reported by the Council that they had obtained the services of Mr. Evans as Assistant-Curator for two years, commencing on 15th May 1844, at a salary of £30 per annum.

8th March 1849.—Mr. George Lawson, Edinburgh, appointed Assistant-Curator; the salary to be £35 per annum, if, after investigation, it was found that the Society could afford that sum or more.

There were many well-known members of the Society who held the office of Curator, but in December 1862 an Honorary Curatorship was begun, and the Professor of Botany appointed to the office, and the post seems to have been held by the succeeding Professors of Botany in the University until 1901. Professor J. B. Balfour having resigned in 1901, the Society appointed Mr. Wm. Caldwell Crawford, F.R.S.E., their Curator.

RULES.

The original Rules agreed to are not entered in Minutes.

Rules altered 14th December 1837.—“The Office-bearers of the Society shall consist of a President, four Vice-Presidents, six Councillors, one British and two Foreign Secretaries, a Treasurer, and a *Curator who shall be elected annually by means of signed lists.*”

ROOMS FOR MEETINGS.

The meeting of the Society 10th November 1836 was held in the Classroom of Professor Graham, at the College, at 7.30 p.m. Prof. Graham stated that, until more suitable accommodation could be obtained, he would make the Society welcome to the use of his Classroom.

The Society having arranged to rent a Meeting Room at the Royal Institution from the Scottish Society of Antiquarians, held their first meeting there, on 8th November 1836.

At a meeting of the Society, held 11th April 1839, the Secretary stated that Dr. Traill had given the Society the use of a room in the College, adjoining that in which the Herbarium is kept, to be employed as a Library and Consulting Room.

The Society met in various rooms during subsequent years, and, among other places, at 6 York Place. The Society first met at 5 St. Andrew Square, on 13th November 1862.

TEA AFTER MEETINGS.

Proposed at meeting held at Royal Institution 10th January 1839. At the meeting held on 14th March 1839 it was arranged that tea should be provided at the meeting to be held on 11th April 1839, and has since been continued at the evening meetings.

EXTENSION OF THE ROYAL BOTANIC GARDEN.

On the suggestion of Professor J. H. Balfour, at a meeting of the Council on 3rd November 1874, it was remitted to the Secretary and President to bring up the desirability of the Society addressing a Memorial to the Government at the next ordinary meeting of the Society.

At the meeting held on 12th November 1874, it was remitted to the President and the Honorary Secretary to draw up a Memorial in favour of the extension of the Royal Botanic Garden, the Memorial to be signed by the President in the name of the Society, and transmitted to H.M. Government.

The reply of the Government, through H.M. Office of Works, is dated 22nd January 1875. They declined to purchase part of the lands of Inverleith for an extension of the Botanic Garden, but said that, if either the city of Edinburgh or the University purchased the land and handed it over to the Office of Works, they would ask Parliament to vote the additional yearly cost of maintenance.

The arrangements to purchase the Arboretum were completed between the Government and the Town Council of Edinburgh about May 1877.

LOCAL PENNY POST ABOLISHED.

At a meeting, held in the Royal Institution, of the Committee of Management of the Botanical Society, on 9th January 1840, it was ordered that, "In consequence of the change in the local penny post delivery in and around Edinburgh of the Billets intimating the Society's meetings, etc., these should in future be delivered by a person, at as moderate a charge as could be arranged, say, 2s. 6d. a meeting."

HEPATICÆ OF BEN LAWERS DISTRICT.

By SYMERS M. MACVICAR.

(Read 10th April 1902.)

I spent five weeks within the years 1900 and 1901 at Kiltyrie, near the base of Ben Lawers, with the object of becoming familiar with the Hepaticæ of the district. Several botanists have searched these hills for hepatics, but none have apparently devoted the whole of their time to this subject, judging from the number of additions to our flora, some being not very rare, which I was enabled to make. The localities searched by me were the range of hills from Ben Lawers to Creag-na-Caillich, and the low ground from Lawers to Killin. June was the month chosen as, the ground being still moist, most of rare fruiting species are then in best condition.

Ben Lawers lies almost exactly in the centre of Scotland, and its hepatic flora combines both the eastern and the