other Members declared their entire concurrence in Professor Tennant's suggestion, and a list of subscribers was formed before the meeting adjourned.

Ordinary Meeting, 5th December, 1859.

The Rev. Thomas Wiltshire, M.A., F.G.S., President, in the Chair.

The following gentleman was elected a member of the Association—W. S. Clark, Esq.

The following donations were announced :—"The Geologist" magazine for December, from the Editor; Abstracts of the Proceedings of the Geological Society of London, from the Geological Society.

According to one of the laws of the Association, two members were appointed, viz., Professor Tennant and T. G. Rance, Esq., as auditors, to audit the accounts, and to present the yearly statement at the Meeting in January, 1860.

The President stated that since the last meeting the Association had lost a valuable friend in the person of John Brown, Esq., F.G.S., who had prepared a paper which was to have been read that evening. Under these circumstances the Committee had thought it respectful to the memory of Mr. John Brown, that his paper (which had been forwarded to the President) should not be read until the next meeting in January. It was announced that Professor Tennant, F.G.S., had kindly volunteered at very short notice to give a lecture on siliceous nodules in the various formations.

Professor Tennant commenced by some observations on the large proportion in which silica enters into the composition of rocks, constituting one-half part of granite, one-third part of syenite, nine-tenths of quartz, and three-fourths of greensand. He then described the enormous amount of silica in the flints of the upper chalk, and called attention to the peculiarity which distinguishes the beds of flints in Kent and Sussex from those of Yorkshire. In the former they are of dense structure; in the latter mostly of a porous character, taking regular forms, not unlike those of many modern sponges.

Some remarks were then made on Dr. Bowerbank's theory that the great mass of the flints found in the chalk are true sponges. A theory to which Professor Tennant said he was inclined to subscribe. He pointed out as an illustration of its possible truth, and as a proof organic remains may be enclosed in silica, the well known appearance of moss-agates, sections of which procured from Oberstein, cannot under the microscope be distinguished from sections of certain modern sponges. Professor Tennant also drew attention to the difference in the flints of volcanic and aqueous rocks; the former being destitute of, whilst the latter abound in, organic remains.

After alluding to the beds of chert in many of the formations, such as the Portland-rock, greensand, etc., he advocated the view that the Paramoudræ, of Ireland, are nothing more than enormous silicified sponges, and concluded with an account of the hollow flints found on Salisbury Plain, the core of which when examined under the microscope is seen to be composed of a mass of delicate spicules.

A discussion, by several of the members followed, during which the President directed attention to a circumstance, which Mr. Charlesworth confirmed, viz., that a mass of flint when surrounding the base of a ventriculite, never envelopes the whole of the root of the ventriculite.

Mr. Charlesworth made several remarks, with a view of explaining this phenomenon, and at some length entered into reasons for disagreeing with the views of Dr. Bowerbank as to the spongy origin of many of the Chalk flints.

The members were reminded that the next meeting on January 2nd, 1860, would commence at half past six o'clock, when the officers for the year ensuing would be elected, and the paper of the late Mr. Brown on Fossil Mammalian remains lately found in Essex, would be read.

ERRATUM.—Members are requested to add the figure 1 before each of the figures at the top of the page in No. 2 of the Proceedings of Geologists' Association.

* * * The annual subscriptions for the year 1860 are due in the month of January.