

all, but where from year to year specimens of the most approved breeds of cattle are in succession exhibited to their notice, and the rapid improvements now made in the implements of husbandry submitted to their inspection, and their real value brought at once to the test of practical trial: form the leading points on which the Council have to congratulate the members, as evidences of the progressive advancement of the Society in the fulfilment of its various objects.

"In the application of science to the improvement of agriculture as an art, the Council are fully aware that the results will only be conclusive and satisfactory in proportion to the perfection of the particular science itself whose principles are proposed for the regulation of agricultural practice. The laws of mechanics being simple and determinate, their application to the improvement of the principles on which the machines and implements of agriculture may be most economically effected, has been attended with results correspondingly decisive in their character: but while the simple and well established principles of inorganic chemistry may with confidence be expected to serve as safe guides in leading us to a knowledge of the properties of every variety of soil, and the means of their required modification to particular objects, any new light to be thrown upon agriculture by organic chemistry, a less perfect branch of the science, must as yet be received with greater diffidence, though it ultimately promises the most important results. The Council are convinced that the perfection of agriculture as a science, or farming as an art, is only to be attained by the establishment of scientific principles derived from practice, and their judicious application under the given circumstances and conditions of each particular case of climate, soil, or aspect. While, however, they deem this caution requisite in exposition of the practical objects and character of the Society, they witness with great satisfaction the rapid advances made by the distinguished chemists of the present day in that comparatively new and infant branch of chemical philosophy connected with investigations into the laws of organic matter and the principles of vegetable life; and they have to congratulate the Society on the zeal with which their consulting chemist, Dr. Playfair, has entered upon this new and valuable field of scientific inquiry, and the kindness with which he has again favored the members, on the occasion of their general meeting, with two highly interesting lectures, elucidating the application of the most recent discoveries of chemical science to the practical operations of agriculture. The Council feel that if any circumstances could embrace the obligations under which they are laid in reference to these lectures, they would be the readiness with which Dr. Playfair, at a very short notice, and regardless of personal inconvenience, prepared himself for their delivery, and the liberality with which the Royal Institution of Great Britain at once placed their theatre at the disposal of the Society for the occasion.

"The Society's recent county meeting at Southampton was most successful in every department of its arrangements, and fulfilled the most sanguine expectations of the Council. The extent of the show-yard, and the number of entries for exhibition on that occasion, exceeded those of any previous meeting; and the trial of implements, so dependant on circumstances for failure or success, was conducted to the satisfaction of the stewards of that department and the exhibitors whose implements were selected for trial, and proved an object of much attention to the numerous spectators by whom it was witnessed. The success, in a financial point of view, was greatly promoted by the means so liberally placed at the disposal of the Council by the committee of the town and neighbourhood

of Southampton, in the contribution of £1,000. to the funds of the Society, for the purpose of meeting the expenses of the occasion. To the mayor, corporation, and authorities of the borough, the local committee, the commissioners of police, the occupiers of the trial ground, and the South Western Railway Company, the Society, before leaving Southampton, conveyed by unanimous resolutions their best acknowledgments of the essential services which those parties, by their cordial and zealous co-operation, had respectively rendered to the Council in promoting the objects of the meeting.

"From the agricultural character of the district in which the next annual county meeting of the Society at Shrewsbury is appointed to be held, the Council anticipate with confidence a result no less gratifying than that obtained at Southampton; and they have already taken the requisite steps in preparation for that meeting, and have also decided that the judges of stock shall be appointed from recommendations made by the members of the Society at large at the general meeting in May.

"The Finance Committee will lay before the meeting the balance-sheets of the accounts as examined and approved by the auditors on the part of the Society. Their Chairman will also report to the members the large amount of arrears of subscription discharged during the past half year, as well as the mode proposed for facilitating the future collection of subscriptions. Since the last half-yearly meeting upwards of 300 new members have been elected, and the Society now consists of the following members:—

Life Governors	97
Annual Governors	208
Annual Members	6037
Life Members	470
Honorary Members	15

making a total of 6,827 members on the list of the Society at the present time. The Council have unanimously requested Mr. Pusey to accept the office of a trustee of the Society, vacant by the death of the Duke of Grafton, and have elected Mr. Thomas Lockley Meire, of Count Arbour, near Shrewsbury, a member of the Council, in the place of the late Mr. Edward Gough, of Gravel Hill, near Shrewsbury.

"The increasing importance attached by the members to the possession of the Society's journal, has led the Journal Committee to continue its best consideration of the means by which the distribution of each publication may be effected with the greatest certainty, and least loss of time, among the members throughout the kingdom; and they trust that this desirable object will gradually become attained, as the addresses of members are more accurately known, and the most convenient modes of transmission to them more distinctly ascertained. For the convenience of members availing themselves of their privilege of attending the rooms of the Society, the Council have ordered a catalogue of the library, and an inventory of the implements, models, &c., to be prepared for their reference.

"Four years having elapsed since the date of the charter, and the bye-laws then framed agreeably with the new powers conferred upon the Society, the Council have been desirous of rendering the experience gained during this period available for the regulation of their proceedings; and they have accordingly made a complete revision of their former bye-laws and regulations, not only embodying the tenor of such of their special resolutions as had a permanent operation, but rendering the whole more exactly in accordance with the provisions of the charter. A printed copy of these bye-laws was appended to the journal on its