

PROCEEDINGS.

The annual meeting of this Society was held at its rooms on the evening of May 18th, the President, Principal Dawson, in the chair. Mr. J. F. Whiteaves, the Recording Secretary, read the minutes of the last annual meeting; after which the usual annual address of the President was delivered, as follows:—

THE PRESIDENT'S ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN :—In the midst of the many exciting occurrences of the past year, we have reason for thankfulness and mutual congratulation that we have been enabled to pursue in peace our unobtrusive work, and that we have to record the past as one of the most successful years of this Society. More than twenty original papers on various departments of Natural History have been contributed, the greater part of which have been published in our Journal. Our course of Sommerville Lectures and our Annual Conversazione have been eminently successful. Large additions have been made to our Museum, and much progress has been made in its arrangement. An Entomological club has been established in connection with the Society, and arrangements have been made for retaining for another term of two years the services of our efficient scientific curator, Mr. Whiteaves.

In Geology many important communications have been received. Among these I may particularly mention, in the first place, several papers by Dr. Hunt on Canadian lithology, on the Silicification of fossils, on mineral waters and on the economical uses of peat. While all of these are of great value, I may direct particular attention to the very remarkable facts stated in the paper on mineral waters, in relation to the saline springs, so abundant in this country, when regarded as affording evidence of the composition of that primeval ocean in which our Silurian beds were deposited. As treated by Dr. Hunt, mineral springs cease to be