

us by the Legislature is in the proportion of rather less than one fourth of that afforded to the Canadian Institute in Toronto,—the grants made to the Natural History Society during the last three years amounting to £400, while those to the Canadian Institute have reached £1750. It is hardly necessary for the Council to state that in making these remarks it is very far indeed from their intention to disparage the exertions or the utility of that Institution, whose greater good fortune they have instanced, nor would they for a moment imagine that the grants they have received are too much. Far from it; fellow laborers with ourselves in the field of science, we hail with pleasure and satisfaction the aid granted to them by the liberality of the Legislature, while at the same time it is permitted to us to bring the precedent thus afforded, as a reason why aid to a similar amount should also be afforded to us, an older institution. Your Council would therefore recommend that a representation to this effect be made to the Executive, and that additional assistance be prayed for, so as to enable the Society to carry out more effectually the design for which it was established.

The Society during the past year have had to regret the death of one of their oldest and most energetic members, and one whose exertions in promoting the cause that the Society has at heart, were beyond all praise. It is to the liberality and kindness of the late Dr. McCulloch that the Society is indebted for many of the finest specimens that now enrich its museum. A vote of condolence with his widow and family, in their deep affliction, has already been passed, but the Council feel assured that these few passing words, "*in memoria*," will be responded to and appreciated by every member of the Society. With this exception, and the loss of Sir James Alexander who, having left this country, has been put on the list of Corresponding Members, there has been nothing in the shape of loss to chronicle. The number of Ordinary Members at present on the list is 148, twelve having been admitted during the year; to the list of Corresponding Members four additions have been made, while only two members have withdrawn from the Society.

Having now traced the leading features of the Society's history during the past year, it only remains for the Council to make a few remarks on its present position and future prospects. While it would be useless to deny that the state and position of the Society are not satisfactory, and that its career of usefulness has not, of late years, been such as the friends of science could have wished, the Council would yet fain hope that it has in some degree been progressive; but the Society must ever bear in mind that the rate of progress which would, in the earlier stages of its history, have been satisfactory, will now no longer be considered so, in view of its increased means as exemplified