

The last paper belongs rather to the unnatural than to the natural history of our species, and might therefore be regarded as somewhat foreign to the objects of the Society. As, however, it is impossible at present to organize a Society in this city for the prosecution of every branch of scientific knowledge, it is to be hoped that the subject on which it treats, which is confessedly of the greatest importance, will be fully discussed from time to time at the monthly meetings.

MISCELLANEOUS.

In consequence of the unnecessary labour caused by the appointment of sub-committees for separate but connected objects, a bye-law has been passed providing that a committee should be nominated by the Council and elected by the Society at the meetings in October, to make the necessary arrangements for both the *Conversazione* and the Somerville Lectures.

A new bye-law has also been adopted, changing the date of the Council meetings from the Thursday to the Tuesday preceding the monthly meetings, in order to allow more time for the issuing of the necessary circulars.

It is recommended that steps be taken by the Council now to be appointed, to codify and print these and all other new bye-laws of the Society which have been passed since 1859.

In conclusion, the Council beg to recommend that the Silver Medal of the Society be awarded to Mr. Billings. It was owing to his exertions that the *Canadian Naturalist*, which has become so valuable an organ for the Society's operations, was first established. His contributions to scientific literature and to the geology of Canada, although unobtrusive, and of a nature not to attract the general attention, have been singularly careful and exact, and have won the praises of all on this continent and in Europe, who are competent to pass judgment on their merits. And at the present time there is a special reason why this mark of appreciative respect should be no longer delayed,—the Council wishing to bear testimony to the singular ability which Mr. Billings has displayed in the volume on the Palæozoic Fossils of Canada and other publications, which have been issued by the Geological Survey during the last year.

Respectfully submitted by

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Chairman.