

The annual *Conversazione* has again failed to draw as many persons as we could have wished, although every possible exertion was made by the Committee in whose hands the matter had been left. Yet your Council cannot but think that such reunions have a beneficial tendency, that much valuable knowledge is derived from them; and that even though there be a loss in a pecuniary point of view, we must regard them as affording valuable knowledge of things and objects which would be otherwise unknown. Your Council think, therefore, they should be continued.

Your Council have also to draw the special attention of the members of this Society to the valuable collection of *shells* belonging to Mr. Whiteaves, your industrious Curator. He is now engaged in classifying the shells, and they are so admirably arranged that their inspection will be useful and interesting to the members of the Society and to students. Your thanks are due him for the duplicates of specimens which he has kindly presented to the Society.

The Society is also indebted to him for the valuable services he has rendered, and for the able manner in which he has filled his office.

The Council have to report that 373 visitors were admitted to the Museum from the 15th September, 1870, to the 1st May, 1871; the former portion of the year no record was kept, owing to the absence of Mr. Hunter.

Your Council have also to report that there is still due \$2000 on the building—\$1000 of which the Treasurer is authorized to pay on the 1st August next, out of any balance he may have on hand; it is also recommended that immediate exertions be made to raise another \$1000 in order to free the premises from mortgage. Your Council have also to remark that the current expenses of the Society have been much above the average of past years, having incurred an outlay of \$337 for repairs to the building.

The Council in retiring desire to convey their thanks for the very valuable services of their officers who have carried through the business for the past year.

G. L. MARLER,  
*Chairman of Council.*