

library and the museum, the increased attendance at the meetings, and the character of the papers communicated thereat, are all justly set forth as legitimate subjects of congratulation.

In reference to the papers communicated, we are well reminded, by the Committee editing the Journal, that the contribution of materials for its pages, from the members of the Society generally, is indispensable to its permanent success. We have no right to expect that the burden of supplying the requisite matter should be cast upon a small minority of those who ought to constitute the working members of the Institute. Of the value of the services rendered by those whose exertions have given to the Journal of the Institute its present character and reputation, we cannot speak or think too highly. It would be, on the part of those who are competent—and I will not doubt but that, among our 600 members, there are many competent,—a just mode of shewing that they fitly appreciate these labours, by sharing, and so lightening them. In adding to the record of facts and phenomena observed, there are few who could not render their quota of assistance; and such a record becomes a treasury of knowledge for philosophic investigation, for elucidating truths already known, or the discovery of others yet hidden from us.

I should be wanting, alike to the Council and to the Institute, if I did not especially call attention to the success of the Journal, so justly attributed, in the Annual Report of the Council, to the ability and judgement of its conductors. It is no slight proof of the value of such a publication, and of the character of those papers which have become known through its pages, that several of them have been deemed worthy of republication in some of the leading scientific journals of Europe; while in return for copies of the Journal transmitted to different societies and learned bodies in other parts of the world, the Institute has already received their printed proceedings, together with other publications of great value. Everything tends to shew the reputation and standing which, through the Journal, this Institute is attaining; and strengthens the claim to our sincere and warmest thanks, which the Editor, and the Committee who have been his coadjutors, have so amply established.

I must not leave the subject of our own proceedings as an Institute, however, without adverting to the fact—within all your recollections,—that at one of the ordinary meetings last year, a tribute of profound respect and regard, mingled with unfeigned sorrow for his melancholy death, was paid to the memory of the late Hugh