then to consider, on the other hand, that it would have been impracticable among ourselves, even a century ago, to raise the tubes of the Britannia Bridge from lack of the hydraulic press, to at once see how mutually dependent are the arts, and how all must advance that each may advance. Well, the sciences are involved with each other in just the same manner. They are, in fact, inextricably woven into this same complex web of the arts; and are only conventionally independent of it. Originally the two were one. How to fix the religious festivals, when to sow, how to weigh commodities, and in what manner to measure ground, were the purely practical questions out of which arose Astronomy, Mechanics, Geometry. Since then there has been a perpetual inosculation of the sciences and the arts. Science has been supplying Art with truer generalizations and more completely quantitative previsions; Art has been supplying Science with better materials and more perfect instruments. And all along the inter-dependence has been growing closer, not only between Art and Science, but among the arts themselves and among the sciences themselves." Such a consensus explains and justifies the existence of scientific associations. A combination of energies, an interchange of ideas, a comparison of results, are all essential instruments in the work of advancing knowledge. It is in connection with such societies that the means of attaining to this end are provided. By the aid of their machinery labourers in different fields of research and remote quarters of the globe are enabled to communicate with each other. By mutual intercourse the cultivators of different branches are taught to look beyond the narrow limits within which they are wont to work, and to feel that there are other fields of labour equally fruitful, and other intellects equally active. By association of different intellectual energies are maintained a healthy equilibrium and a profitable connection among the various sciences. The most important function, however, performed by an association for the advancement of Science consists in the publication of its transactions. Without such publication investigators would to a large extent be working in the dark, and in many cases would be exhausting their energies on problems already solved. By announcing the work performed such a waste of energy is avoided; one discovery leads to another, and what is not immediately productive may contain the germs of future progress. No better example of the importance of publication can be adduced than that which is furnished by the history of the progress of Astronomy. During the last thirty years