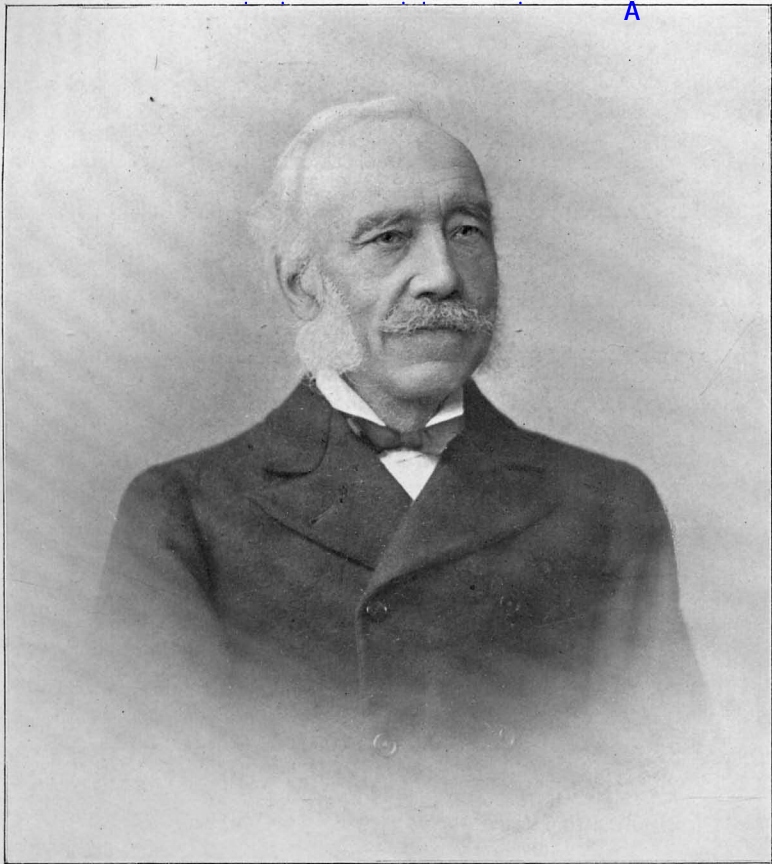


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YEAR-BOOK

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OF THE

ROYAL SOCIETY OF LONDON.

1903.



LONDON :
HARRISON AND SONS, ST. MARTIN'S LANE,
Printers in Ordinary to His Majesty.

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MEMORANDUM AS TO THE WISHES OF THE COUNCIL IN RESPECT OF BENEFACTIONS TO THE SOCIETY.

From time to time since its foundation, the Royal Society has, through the generosity of benefactors, received funds, now amounting to a very considerable sum.

In the majority of cases the terms of gift have limited the application of the money to certain definite purposes, and, in particular, to the award of medals or other prizes for scientific discoveries or other contributions to the advancement of Natural Knowledge.

Every year the Council have to award several medals, including the Copley, Royal, Rumford, Davy, Darwin, Buchanan, Sylvester, and Hughes Medals, or some of these, and have been led by experience to the conclusion that it is neither to the advantage of the Society nor in the interests of the advancement of Natural Knowledge that this already long list of medals should in future be added to, and that, therefore, no further bequests to be awarded as prizes for past achievements should be accepted by the Society.

They desire, however, to make known that the funds belonging absolutely to the Society, funds tied down by no special directions as to their applications, funds which the Society are free to use for general purposes, are very few indeed. And the President and Council have again and again had the experience that the usefulness of the Society for the advancement of Natural Knowledge has been greatly hampered by the lack of funds of which they could freely make use according to their own judgment.

The President and Council are confident that it would not be difficult, wherever desirable, to associate in some conspicuous manner with any gift to the Society the name of the benefactor, and indeed they would wish to do so.

The President and Council accordingly desire to make it generally known that while they will willingly receive gifts to be applied to special objects or for the benefit of particular sciences indicated by the donors, they consider that, in view of the varying necessities of Science, the most useful benefactions are those which are given to the Society in general terms for the advancement of Natural Knowledge.