March 30, 1844.—Anniversary Meeting.—The President in the Chair.

The following Report of the Council was read from the Chair, and subsequently ordered to be printed in the Society's Transactions:—

THE experience of the present year confirms the favourable anticipations expressed at the last Anniversary respecting the stability of the Chemical Society. The exertions made on the first foundation of any society are evidence of little more than the meritorious zeal and activity of the few with whom it has originated, and are in their very nature extraordinary and temporary. It is only when these exertions begin to subside to their usual level, and the welfare of the Society, then necessarily entrusted to the voluntary efforts of the members at large, is found to have received no check, that expectations can reasonably be entertained of the final success of the undertaking. Our Society may, I think, be now fairly considered as passing through this critical state of transition, while it exhibits at the same time signs of such healthy vigour as may well encourage us to perseverance in the good work. Our periodical meetings have been fully attended during the present session, and the number of those whom the various accidents of civil society have removed from our last year's list of members have been more than replaced by the new elections. We have added to our list 8 resident and 12 non-resident members, 1 foreign member and 6 associates, being 27 in the whole; the entire number on our list is 168, of which 78 resident and 71 non-resident members contribute to our finances the sum of £227. From our 4 foreign members and 15 associates, though no pecuniary supplies are expected, we look with confidence to communications which may be alike worthy of them to offer and of the Society to receive.

The Society has to regret the loss by death of one of its members, Mr. Charles Macintosh, with whose name every one is familiar, and who will long hold a place in the memory of his personal friends. This gentleman was the son of George

Macintosh, a merchant of Glasgow, who first introduced into Scotland the process of dying Turkey red. After going through the usual routine of a school education he was placed while young in a merchant's counting-house at Glasgow. A strong bent to science induced him to enter himself as a student in the University of his native place, where for several sessions he attended the lectures of Dr. Black and afterwards of Dr. Irvine, the successor of Dr. Black, on the removal of the latter to the Chemical Professorship in the University of Edinburgh. He next spent some time in France, and thus acquired a familiar use of the French language.

On his return to Glasgow he established himself as a chemical manufacturer, chiefly of salts and other substances used in dyeing, bleaching and calico printing, and is stated to have have been the inventor of the method of preparing the dry chloride of lime.

The last important object in which he was engaged was a project for rendering cloth water-proof by interposing between two webs of cloth a thin layer of a solution of caoutchouc. By great care and attention he succeeded in improving this process from time to time, and ultimately brought it to its present state of perfection.

It does not appear that he contributed in any marked degree to the advancement of scientific chemistry, but he may be considered as holding a high place among those whose sagacity and practical talents have aided the progress of manufacturing industry, and have received accordingly their appropriate reward. He died on the 25th July, 1843.

The arrangement by which, on the payment of a moderate rent, we are accommodated with rooms for our use at the house of the Society of Arts continues to be satisfactory to both parties, and especially to ourselves, as we have not only acquired a convenient habitation, but have avoided those expenses included in the word establishment so often ruinous to young societies.

Parts 5 and 6 of the Memoirs and Proceedings of the Society have been distributed to the Members, and Part 7 is on the point of being issued. The two former contain fourteen papers read since our last anniversary, several of which are of high interest, both theoretically and practically. Among these I may perhaps be allowed to point out Mr. Denham Smith's examination of the basic sulphates of copper; Mr. Stenhouse's determination of the atomic composition of pure theine; and an inquiry by Mr. Warington and Mr. Francis on the action of alkalies on bees' wax, showing that the fatty body contained in this substance is not stearine, a fact of some importance in reference to the controversy be-

tween Liebig and certain French chemists respecting the source of the fat in animal bodies. Of the importance of Dr. W. Gregory's paper, entitled 'Further contributions to the chemical history of the products of the decomposition of uric acid,' there can be but one opinion. In a short memoir this accomplished chemist, commencing from the mother-liquid of alloxan, makes known the methods of preparing alloxantine, dialuric acid and dialurate of ammonia, the composition of the second of which he found on actual analysis to correspond to the hypothetical formula previously given by Liebig and Wöhler, namely, $C_8 H_4 N_2 O_8 + HO$. He also describes alloxano-sulphurous acid, apparently a new substance, and alloxanic acid. These investigations, in which Dr. Gregory is still occupied, are owing to Professor Liebig having very liberally placed at his disposal a large quantity, above 2 lbs., of urate of ammonia. Of these interesting substances I find from a letter of Dr. Gregory's to our Secretary that specimens will be forwarded for the Society's Museum.

And this leads me to say a few words concerning our Museum, or rather nucleus of a Museum. Among the specimens presented are some from Dr. Stenhouse, illustrative of his paper on the products of the distillation of meconic acid. Such specimens have a double value, not only as samples of new or rare substances, but have the same value as original documents in historical inquiries, as they admit of being referred to in order to correct or corroborate statements made in the Memoirs to which they relate. But while it is recommended that documentary specimens, so to speak, should, when possible, accompany the papers with which we may be favoured, I wish to impress on our Members the utility of the Society possessing as large a collection as possible of known chemical substances in their purest and most characteristic state. To our excellent Secretary, as well as to other Members, we are indebted for several fine specimens received during the present session; and I am sure it only requires that the wish of the Society on this subject should be generally made known among us to bring this part of our collection to a very satisfactory state. Of books and periodical journals, we have received several from the respective authors and editors, which, together with the journals purchased from the funds of the Society, will enable our Members to become acquainted with the discoveries, as they arise, both theoretical and practical, in a science second to none in importance and interest, in the rapidity of its progress, and the boundless extent of discovery which it offers to us and our successors.

The state of the Society's funds will be exhibited by the following audited account of the Treasurer.

AUDITORS' REPORT.

Dr. ROBERT PORRETT, (*Treasurer*) *in Account with the Chemical Society of London.* *Cr.*

1843.		£	s.	d.
March 30.	To Balance from last Account	269	15	3
1844.				
March 25.	To Subscriptions since received	193	0	0
		£462	15	3

1843.		£	s.	d.
March 30.	By payment for Specimen Bottles	1	16	0
	——— for Duty and Charges on Chemicals from Giessen	1	4	1
May 2.	——— for Scientific Journals for 1843	5	5	0
16.	——— for Rent to Society of Arts	25	0	0
16.	——— for Printing, from Oct. 1841, including the Society's Memoirs and Proceedings	86	19	6
Dec. 18.	——— of Gratuity to Doorkeeper Society of Arts	0	10	0
1844.				
Jan. 15.	——— for Philosophical Magazine and Scientific Memoirs	5	7	0
Feb. 7.	——— for Scientific Journals for 1844	3	15	0
March 23.	——— to Collector for Poundage	7	8	3
23.	——— for Envelopes, Paper and Postage Stamps	3	2	0
25.	By Balance to his Debit in new Account	322	8	5
		£462	15	3

London, 25th March, 1844.

R. PORRETT, *Treasurer.*

We have examined the above Account and find it correct,

B. G. BABINGTON.

PHILIP J. CHABOT.

The following Gentlemen were elected as Officers and Council for the ensuing year:—

President.—Arthur Aikin, Esq.

Vice-Presidents.—William Thomas Brande, Esq.; John Thomas Cooper, Esq.; Thomas Graham, Esq.; Thomas Thomson, M.D.

Treasurer.—Robert Porrett, Esq.

Secretaries.—Robert Warington, Esq. and George Fownes, Ph.D.

Foreign Secretary.—E. F. Teschemacher, Esq.

Council.—Benjamin Babington, M.D.; Thomas Everett, Esq.; M. Faraday, D.C.L.; William Gregory, M.D.; Percival N. Johnson, Esq.; James F. W. Johnstone, Esq., M.A.; H. B. Leeson, M.D.; W. Hallows Miller, Esq., M.A.; William Hasledine Pepys, Esq.; Richard Phillips, Esq.; J. Denham Smith, Esq. and John Stenhouse, Ph.D.

The thanks of the Society were severally voted to the Officers and Council for their exertions during the past year.
