

commenced what proved to be an unbroken association with the collections for well over half a century.

The museum at this time appears to have been growing in popularity. It was visited by over 44,000 persons in 1848. That is more than double the number of visitors to the Hancock Museum during the year 1928. It is only fair to state, however, that in 1848 the public was admitted to the museum during certain hours free of charge. Nevertheless such a large attendance proves that there was a desire on the part of the public at that time to benefit by the educational facilities offered by the Society, for the reports whenever the subject is mentioned lay special stress upon the good behaviour and lack of loafing on the part of the visitors. On January 30th, 1849, a meeting was held at which it was resolved to charge one penny for admission to the museum. The reason for adopting so small a sum was to enable all classes of society to benefit. The charge for admission was introduced on February 5th, 1849. During the same year the governing bodies of several other museums in various parts of the country, after consultation with the Committee of the Natural History Society, threw open their collections to the public at a low rate of admission.

The only item of interest in the accounts for the decade 1840 to 1849, other than those already dealt with, is the payment of the sum of

£2 6s. 10d. to Messrs. Meggison & Co. of London on account of expenses in connection with obtaining for the Society exemption from the local rates.

With a view to rendering the collections of greater educational value to the public it was decided in the spring of 1851 to give lectures in the museum on the evenings of Easter Monday and Tuesday. These times were specially decided upon in order to enable the members of the working classes to attend. The first lecture was given by Dr. Dennis Embleton on "The Dinornis," the second by Dr. Edward Charlton on "Bird Rocks of the North Sea, Orkney, and Shetland."

In October, 1853, Joseph Wright was appointed Keeper of the Museum, which office he filled continuously until he was compelled to retire through failing health in 1904. His fifty-one years of faithful service will be remembered and appreciated so long as the Society lasts. Joseph Wright was more than a keeper, he was an able exponent of natural history. He knew and loved every specimen in the museum and his vast stores of information were ever at the disposal of visitors to the collections. He was a contributor to the Transactions on more than one occasion, and when after the death of the authors the publication of Alder and Hancock's "Monograph of the Tunicata" was undertaken by the Ray Society, the manuscript sent to London was