

The Secretary read the following Lists :—

Fellows deceased since the last Anniversary.

On the Home List.

William Allen, Capt. R.N.	Joseph Henry Green, Esq., D.C.L.
William Bingham Baring, Lord Ashburton, D.C.L.	Hudson Gurney, Esq.
The Ven. Charles Parr Burney, D.D., Archdeacon of Colchester.	Leonard Horner, Esq.
Samuel Cartwright, Esq.	Luke Howard, Esq.
The Rev. William Cureton, D.D., Canon of Westminster.	William Chadwell Mylne, Esq.
Admiral the Hon. George Elliot.	The Rev. Frederick Nolan, LL.D.
The Rev. Josiah Forshall, M.A.	Joseph Ellison Portlock, Major- General, R.E.
James William Freshfield, Esq.	Archibald Robertson, M.D.
	Robert Dundas Thomson, M.D.
	Robert Torrens, Lieut.-Colonel.

On the Foreign List.

Baron Giovanni Plana.	Heinrich Rose.
Friedrich Georg Wilhelm Struve.	

Fellows elected since the last Anniversary.

On the Home List.

Sir Henry Barkly, K.C.B.	William Jenner, M.D.
William Brinton, M.D.	Sir Charles Locock, Bart., M.D.
T. Spencer Cobbold, M.D.	William Sanders, Esq.
Alexander John Ellis, Esq.	Col. William James Smythe, R.A.
John Evans, Esq.	Lieut.-Col. Alexander Strange.
William Henry Flower, Esq.	Robert Warrington, Esq.
Thomas Grubb, Esq.	Nicholas Wood, Esq.
Sir John Charles Dalrymple Hay, Bart.	

On the Foreign List.

Claude Bernard.	Jean Bernard Léon Foucault.
Adolph Charles Wurtz.	

The first Report of the Scientific Relief Committee was read to the Meeting by the Treasurer, as follows :—

“In presenting this, the first Report of the proceedings of the Royal Society Relief Fund Committee, it may be advisable very briefly to explain the circumstances under which the Fund originated, as well as the distribution of the Income arising therefrom.

“On the 26th of May, 1859, a statement was presented to the Council,

intimating a desire on the part of several of the Fellows of the Royal Society, to promote the establishment of a permanent fund for the aid of such scientific men, or their families, as may from time to time require and deserve assistance. A scheme having been suggested, it was after some modification approved, and adopted by the Council of the Royal Society, and copies thereof were forwarded to the Fellows of the Chartered Societies.

“It formed no part of the scheme to attempt the grant of annuities; it was rather intended to afford *prompt* relief of the immediate wants of those upon whom sudden affliction had fallen; although at the same time, it in no way debarred a continuation of such relief being given should the funds admit thereof.

“The Committee, as originally named by Council Minutes of 22nd December, 1859, consisted of Mr. Busk, Dr. W. A. Miller, Mr. Wheatstone, Dr. Tyndall, and Mr. Gassiot. Subsequently Dr. Carpenter, Mr. Sylvester, and Mr. Huxley were appointed to succeed those Members who retired by rotation; and this year Dr. Miller and Mr. Gassiot will also retire; it being a regulation that no member can remain for a longer period than five consecutive years on the Committee.

“The first Meeting took place on the 19th March 1860, Mr. Wheatstone in the Chair. At this time £3204 14s. had been received, and invested in £3351 7s. 6d. New 3 per Cents. In 1860 there was only one applicant for relief; a sum was voted, but in consequence of the applicant's sudden decease, the cheque was subsequently returned to the Treasurer and cancelled.

“In 1861 there were six applicants, to five of whom relief was afforded.

“In 1862 there were four applicants, of whom three were relieved.

“In 1863 there were five applicants, of whom four were relieved.

“In 1864 there were two applicants—both were relieved.

“The total amount thus expended has been £460; and there still remains £233 1s. 11d. applicable for relief, exclusive of £17 2s., subscriptions to be invested.

“The amount of the Fund, as invested, consists of £5300 New 3 per cent. Consols, every shilling (with the above exception of £17 2s.) which has been received having been invested, without any deduction for expenses; the economical principle on which this Fund was originally founded has been thus strictly carried out. The Council of the Royal Society grants the use of a room, as well as the little stationery that is from time to time required, and permits the Assistant-Secretary to summon a meeting of the Members as soon as any application for relief is received. One of the members of the Committee undertakes the duties of a Secretary, and in this simple manner *all* expense is avoided, while the relief, if granted, is immediate. The amount at disposal for distribution is necessarily limited to the accumulation of interest, the gross amount of subscriptions being invested.

“The peculiar and distinctive character of the Royal Society Relief Fund is, that although relief has invariably been granted with the greatest promptitude, the claims have nevertheless been most carefully examined by those whose pursuits in life enable them to form the most correct conclusion as to the character of the claimant. The Committee can most conscientiously state that, in no instance, has any applicant having the slightest claim on the Fund been refused assistance. Sometimes the payments to recipients have been the first information they have received of such a fund being in existence; the Committee may have on some occasions regretted that it had not a larger sum at command, but the relief, whatever its amount, has always been received with gratitude for the substantial aid it afforded, and with pleasure as a recognition on the part of the Council of the Royal Society of good service rendered to science.

“The Committee is naturally desirous to retain sufficient funds in hand to meet any sudden emergency that may arise; at this time there appears a balance somewhat larger than usual, but this arises from there having been only two applicants this year instead of five, as in 1863. It is very probable that if the *existence* of such a fund were more generally known, especially among the members of the Chartered Scientific Societies, further subscriptions would be tendered.”

(Signed)

W. A. MILLER.

W. B. CARPENTER.

J. J. SYLVESTER.

T. H. HUXLEY.

J. P. GASSIOT.

Burlington House,
24th November, 1864.

On the motion of Mr. Busk, seconded by Dr. Gray, the thanks of the Society were voted to Mr. Gassiot for his services in originating and conducting the Scientific Relief Fund.

The PRESIDENT then addressed the Society as follows:—

GENTLEMEN,

WHEN I had the honour of addressing you at the Anniversary Meeting in 1862, I informed you of the steps which had been taken by the Council towards the formation of an Index to the Scientific Periodical Literature of the Nineteenth Century, or, more precisely, a Catalogue of the Titles of Scientific Memoirs contained in the Scientific Periodicals, in all languages, from the commencement of the present century to the year 1860. The preparation of this work has progressed steadily; and, so far as regards a Manuscript Catalogue to be kept in our own library for the use of the Fellows generally, it may be considered to be very nearly complete. The limit in point of time to which the entries of the Titles should be restricted has been extended to 1863 inclusive. A circular which has been addressed by the Foreign Secretary to seventy