

REPORT

31

OF THE

Committee of Management

OF THE

MELBOURNE

MECHANICS' INSTITUTION,

AND SCHOOL OF ARTS,

FOR THE YEAR 1870.

Melbourne :

CLARSON, MASSINA, & CO., GENERAL PRINTERS,

72 LITTLE COLLINS STREET EAST.

1871.

MELBOURNE
MECHANICS' INSTITUTION & SCHOOL OF ARTS.

OFFICE-BEARERS FOR THE YEAR 1871.

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Vice-President :

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Secretary and Librarian :

WALTER THOMPSON.

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RICHARDSON, W. J., M.D.
TEMPLETON, J. M.
THOMAS, H.
WIGG, H. C., M.D.

BARWICK, J.
BENJAMIN, D.
EDWARDS, J.
GIBBS, J. H.
MACKENZIE, W.
MUNRO, D.
SMITH, P., M.D.

REPORT

OF THE

COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT

FOR THE YEAR 1870.

1. THE COMMITTEE have great pleasure in being enabled to present to the Members of the Institution a very satisfactory report of the proceedings of the past year, and of the present position of the Institution.
2. The general complaint throughout commercial circles of the depressed state of business of every kind during the year, makes the success of the Institution stand out the more prominently.
3. At the end of 1870 the number of members on the roll was 510, the largest number since 1864; the new members during the year amounted to 170, more than have joined in the same period since 1863.
4. The Institution is, also, for the first time in twelve years, out of debt; the balance of £20 4s. 2d., which appears in the statement appended hereto as a liability, being for two or three small accounts not yet rendered, and which can be met on presentation.
5. This result has not been obtained by any false economy; on the contrary, upwards of £30 have been expended in painting and certain additions to the building: an amount which will not be again required for some time. The front of the Institution not having been painted since 1862, its renovation had become a necessity.
6. An amount of £60 was voted for the improvement of the Library. The manner in which this has been expended has, we believe, obtained the approval of all the members; it has been

the means of transforming what was, in appearance, little better than a lumber-room for books, into a business-like and convenient library.

7. The supply of the reading-room and library has been the constant study of your Committee, and they trust that the new books and periodicals which have been provided have met with your approval. Many have been purchased in compliance with the wishes of individual members entered in the "Suggestion Book." The contract by Messrs. Dawson and Son, of London, has been carried out very satisfactorily, through their agent, Mr. Edward Whitehead, of Collins Street.

8. The out-going Committee recommend to the attention of their successors the desirability of improving the comfort and convenience of the reading-room; and the state of the finances being so favourable, this important matter will, doubtless, meet with their early consideration.

9. A table which has been compiled shows the great increase that has taken place of late years in the perusal of periodical literature, especially magazines. It will be observed that though there is but a small increase in the number of *volumes* circulated, the issue of *magazines* and other periodicals has increased twelve-fold since 1856, justifying the action of the Committee, who have paid special attention to this portion of the reading-room.

10. The following table will show the various fluctuations in the status of the Institution since 1856, and will no doubt be of interest to the members:—

YEAR.	No. of Members.	New Members.	Volumes Added.	Volumes in Circulation.	Magazines in Circulation.	LIABILITY.		
						£	s.	d.
1856	590	269	300	12,435	1010			
1857	587	274	350	13,070	2075			
1858	567	174	350	18,175	2117	85	6	0
1859	506	144	407	16,514	2038	742	17	9
1860	488	118	220	20,274	3343	668	8	9
1861	635	284	145	21,144	4523	609	14	2
1862	600	209	344	19,128	5093	508	8	0
1863	569	176	401	23,262	5101	451	11	5
1864	512	127	350	13,315	6249	427	17	2
1865	471	146	398	12,912	8152	238	3	3
1866	450	123	270	13,102	9100	60	14	2
1867	437	117	217	13,146	9899	139	6	6
1868	458	131	430	13,249	11,378	190	16	11
1869	460	129	413	13,614	10,278	94	5	7
1870	510	170	382	14,022	11,705	20	4	2

11. The proportions in which the various classes of works were issued are as follows:—

CLASSIFICATION.	1869.	1870.
Agriculture, Commerce, and Statistics	23	26
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	60	42
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	349	532
Classics and Philology	50	40
Fine Arts	68	80
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	856	615
History and Historical Memoirs	619	633
Jurisprudence and Legislation	9	11
Medical Science and Chemistry	27	34
Miscellaneous and Collective Works	1041	672
Natural History and Botany	29	114
Works of Fiction	8447	9250
Music	6	2
Periodical Literature	1495	1541
Philosophy and General Science	232	180
Poetry and the Drama	192	182
Politics	66	22
Religious and Ecclesiastical Works	45	46
	13,614	14,022

12. The number of visitors introduced to the reading-room by members, subject to the regulations of Rule 10, was 157.

13. The Government has contributed during the year—

Victorian Parliamentary Debates, 1870.
 Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Victoria, 1870.
 Government Gazette, 1870.
 Acts of Parliament of Victoria, 1870.
 Abstract of English and Colonial Patent Specifications relating to the Preservation of Food, 1870.
 Abstract of Specifications of Patents, applied for from 1854 to 1866, AC to BU.
 Patents and Patentees, vol. 3—Indexes for 1868.
 The Technological Commission, Victoria, Reports and Papers.

14. The following donations have also been kindly made:—

Law List, Victoria, 1870—Mr. R. H. Smith.
 Homœopathic Progress in Australia, Nos. 1 to 5—Dr. Günst.
 Homœopathic World—Jarrold and Sons, London.
 Monthly Microscopical Journal, 1870—Mr. J. Scott.
 Medical Treatise—Dr. Beaney.
 Medical Treatise—Dr. Reeves.
 Journal of Society of Arts—The Society.
 Historical Account of the Separation of Victoria from N. S. Wales—
 Dr. Lang.
 Slater's Queensland Almanac, 1871—Mr. Slater.
 Sea Board Parish
 Pearl of Orr's Island
 Step by Step
 Nature, parts 1 to 6 } Mr. J. Thomson.

LIBRARY DEPOSIT ACCOUNT,

December 31, 1870.

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To Balance due Members, 31st Dec., 1869	14 0 0	By Deposits repaid in 1870	21 0 0
„ Amount Deposits received in 1870	15 0 0	„ Balance	8 0 0
	<u>£29 0 0</u>		<u>£29 0 0</u>
Balance	£8 0 0		

STATEMENT OF CURRENT LIABILITIES AND ASSETS,

December 31, 1870.

DR.	£ s. d.	CR.	£ s. d.
To Salaries, December	26 0 10	By Cash in Bank	52 1 4
„ Gas—Nov., Dec.	9 12 6	„ „ in hand	15 9 0
„ Repairs, &c.	1 17 6	„ Rents of Offices	8 0 0
„ Books £23 8 3		„ „ Hall, &c.	13 13 6
„ Magazines 11 0 0		„ Second-hand Periodicals and Newspapers sold	6 4 0
„ Newspapers 21 4 0		„ Subscriptions	3 10 0
„ Binding 17 18 11		Balance	20 4 2
„ Library Deposits	8 0 0		
	<u>£119 2 0</u>		<u>£119 2 0</u>
Balance	£20 4 2		

JOHN EDWARDS,

CHAIRMAN OF FINANCE COMMITTEE.

TERMS:

Annual Subscription—entitling Members to the use of Library, Reading Room, Lectures, &c.	One Pound.
Half-year Subscription	Ten Shillings.
Life Membership	Ten Guineas.

No Entrance Fee is charged. New Members can join at any period of the year.

Any Member borrowing Books from the Library may be required to leave with the Secretary a deposit of £1, for the safe return of the property.

The sons and apprentices of Members, under eighteen years of age, may be admitted as Junior Members upon payment of 10s. annual subscription.

Members have the privilege of gaining for any friend who shall live beyond the precincts of Melbourne, or who shall be a naval or military officer, or the captain of a vessel trading to this port, free admission to the Reading Room for a period of one month in any year, by entering the name and address in the Introduction Book.

The Reading Room is open daily from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., Sundays and Public Holidays excepted.

The Library is open from 9 a.m. to 2 p.m.; 4 to 6 p.m.; and 7 to 9 p.m.

On Saturdays the Library is closed from 2 p.m. to 7 p.m.

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 Roberts, W.
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 Robertson, J.
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 Smith, W. H.
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 Smithers, J.
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 Steel, W. H.
 Stedman, A. J.
 Stephen, J. W.
 Stevens, Major
 Stiffe, J.
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 Stillwell, A.
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 Stokes, J.
 Stone, G.
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 Taylor, Rev. S.
 Taylor, H.
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 Terry, T.
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 Thomson, John
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 White, W.
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 Williams, W. H.
 Willoughby, H.
 Wilson, B. F.
 Wilson, Fielding
 Wilson, G. G.
 Wilson, J.
 Wise, J.
 Wood, G.
 Wood, R.
 Wood, H.
 Woodfall, A.
 Wright, W.
 Wright, J. T.
 Wrixon, W. H.
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- Young, H.