

## CHEMISTRY AND MINING BUILDING.

Though the Chemistry and Mining Building has no Committee which reports directly to Corporation, it may be of interest to append the following Report by the Director, Dr. Harrington:—

One of the most important events of the last session was the official opening of the Macdonald Chemistry and Mining Building by His Excellency the Governor-General on the afternoon of December 20. This date was chosen in order that Lord Strathcona, the Chancellor of the University, might be present on the occasion and take part in the proceedings. The ceremony took place in the large lecture theatre, which had been appropriately decorated for the occasion. Among the guests present were:—

Sir Sanford Fleming, Chancellor of Queen's University, Kingston; Dr. Henneker, Chancellor of Lennoxville; Principal Parkin, Canon Racicot, Vice-Rector of Laval; Hon. Sydney A. Fisher, Minister of Agriculture; Sir Alexander Lacoste, Sir Melbourne Tait, Professor Richards, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Professor Goodwin, of Queen's University, Kingston.

After introductory remarks by the Chancellor, an address from the University was presented to His Excellency. Sir William Macdonald then presented a gold key of the building to His Excellency, who replied to the address, and declared the building open. Interesting addresses were afterwards delivered by the Hon. Sydney Fisher, Professor Richards, Professor Goodwin, Dr. Parker and Principal Peterson. Special interest also attaches to the occasion because of the official announcement then made by the Governor-General of the honour conferred by Her Majesty upon the generous donor of the building—an honour which was gratifying to every member of the University.

On the evening of the following day a conversazione was held, to which more than 1,700 guests were invited. The new Building was connected with the Engineering Building on the one hand and the Physics Building on the other, by means of temporary corridors, so that an opportunity was afforded of inspecting the entire suite of laboratories presented to the University by Sir William Macdonald.

The work of the Mining Department had been carried on in the Building during the session of 1897-98, but the Chemical, Mineralogical and Petrographical Laboratories were not occupied until the beginning of last session. The work of equipment has gone steadily on, and is now approaching completion. Most of the books presented to the Library by Sir William Macdonald have arrived, and have already proved invaluable to both staff and students. Details concerning the Laboratories are to be found in the University Calendar.

During the year the building has been visited by many distinguished strangers, all of whom have expressed the warmest approbation of the laboratories and their equipment.

The following is a statement of the principal research work carried on in the building during the past session. The smallness of the staff, however, makes research almost out of the question, and only a portion of that begun last year has as yet been completed.