

dia of Receipts has proved its value time and again as a mine of information. The Century Cyclopedia of Names is a fitting supplement to the monumental Century Dictionary.

#### **THE YEAR'S READING.**

The total use of the books for the year increased but slightly over the previous year. Still the increase is sufficient to show that the Library continues to be as largely used as ever. The Library was open 306 days, with an average circulation of 718 volumes for each day open. Fiction, of course, continues to claim a great percentage of books drawn for home use, being 56 per cent. of books so drawn; but this is not a safe criterion to follow, as the percentage of fiction to the total use—reference and home use—is but 35 per cent. of the whole, all other classes aggregating 65 per cent. The real utility of the Library is most clearly demonstrated by the very great use made of the books on the shelves in the Reference Reading Room, as well as of the other books in the Reference Department and also of the books in the Circulating Department, for reference purposes.

#### **ASSISTING READERS.**

It has been my endeavor to continue the policy instituted in the early days of the Library, of assisting readers in search of facts or figures on special topics. That readers must have limited access to the books is an essential condition for the carrying out of this policy. The Fiction shelves are of course rigidly excluded from this privilege, but the catalogues and indicator compensate in some degree for this exclusion; and so far as fiction is concerned these aids enable the books to be given out much faster than if readers were allowed to crowd one another at the shelves. I believe, however, that limited access to the books on history, travels and classes other than Fiction, has proved a great convenience to readers. Moreover it is a pleasure to be able to bear testimony to the fact that though many hundreds of readers of all classes and conditions have been assisted in this way, the privilege has been so appreciated that not five books have been missed from the shelves in as many years. The advanced pupils in the Collegiate Institute, the principals and teachers in the city schools, and the members of various literary societies in the city