

ELEVENTH ANNUAL REPORT.

I beg to lay before you the Eleventh Annual Report, which records the progress made during another busy and successful year.

For the first time in our annals, the circulation of books for home reading has exceeded half a million, and the addition of 33,571 books issued in the Reference Library has brought the total circulation up to 535,727; an increase of 93,349 over that of 1893, or 17.4 per cent.

This large advance on former years does not entirely arise from any special increase in the Central Library, but is contributed to by all the Branches.

	1893.	1894.	Increase, 1894.
Central.....	290,266	353,337	63,071
Western.....	50,725	57,757	7,032
Northern	40,421	45,830	5,409
Eastern.....	26,163	38,943	12,780
Dundas.....	34,803	39,860	5,057

By a reference to page 12 of the Statistical Tables, it will be seen that the increase has been evenly distributed over all classes of books, the only one which shows a diminution in percentage being Fiction, which is now reduced to 46 per cent. over the whole Library, and 40.6 per cent. at the Central. As has been pointed out in 1891, by my predecessor in this chair, the whole tendency of the circulation since the establishment of the Library has been in the direction of a reduction in the issue of Fiction, which, amounting to 65.5 per cent. in 1885, only 46 per cent. in 1894.

The Circulating Libraries have now grown to 48,027 books, against 21,105 in 1884, and, as will be seen by the following table, the number of books other than Fiction have increased more rapidly than light literature.