

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE LIBRARY COMMITTEE.

TO THE CORPORATION OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY,

GENTLEMEN,—In the last Annual Report of your Committee, reference was made to the inscriptions required to complete the canopy that had been placed in the Library for the portrait bust of the late Mr. Peter Redpath. Early in the year now closed, two oak panels, upon which these inscriptions had been carved, were placed one on either side of the bust. The inscriptions are as follows:—

“This edifice, one of many noble gifts, was presented to the University by Peter Redpath. Opened on the 31st Oct., 1893.”

“Peter Redpath. Born, Montreal, Augt. 1, 1821. Died, Chislehurst, Eng., Feb. 1st, 1894. This bust and canopy were presented to the University by a few of his friends and admirers in the United Kingdom.”

At the meeting held last January, the Corporation asked of the Board of Governors a special grant to defray the cost of publishing, under the caption “University Publications”, papers scientific and literary, written by members of the staff of the University. The Governors generously made the requisite appropriation, leaving the details of publication and exchange in the hands of your Committee. Steps were accordingly taken for issuance of University Publications along the lines already indicated by Corporation, and the co-operation of members of the University as a whole was sought and readily obtained. As a result, fifteen papers have been published, by the following departments:—Botany, 2; Pathology, 3; Physiology, 6; Physics, 1; Chemistry and Mineralogy, 1; Philosophy, 2. Sir William Dawson has not merely co-operated as a contributor, but has generously placed at the disposal of your Committee, for distribution, a number of the publications of the Peter Redpath Museum.

Under arrangement with the Faculty of Law as approved by the Board of Governors and by Corporation, the books controlled by that Faculty have been removed to the General Library, upon which henceforth devolves their superintendence and management, while the Faculty provides for the additional assistance required under the new plan. At first it was thought that at least a few books would be required in the building where the Law lectures are held. This has not proved to be the case, however. A Seminary Room in the General Library, supplied with some 1200 selected volumes, seems to answer every need of the students. Indeed, the necessity for even this room hardly seems urgent, in view of the expressed preference for the general Reading Room and its use instead of the Seminary Room by more than one Student.