

TWELFTH ANNUAL REPORT.

GENTLEMEN—

It affords me much pleasure to lay before you the Twelfth Annual Report, and to say that the interest taken by the citizens of Toronto in the Library has been maintained throughout the year, the issue of books having again amounted to more than half a million volumes.

You will be pleased to learn that the circulation is contributed to uniformly by all Branches.

It is likewise gratifying to know that the reduction in the issue of fiction, which this Board has steadily aimed at, has continued, and now stands at 46.5 per cent. over the whole library, and 40.8 per cent. at the Central. In 1885 the issue of fiction amounted to 65.5 per cent. of the circulation. Following the reduction in the circulation of fiction, the books in the library, other than fiction, have increased more rapidly than light literature.

The difficulty of tracing new books through the half-dozen supplementary catalogues which the Board has issued from time to time, coupled with the immediate necessity for further cataloguing, led the Board to consider the question of consolidation of the catalogues, and while all were agreed as to the desirability of condensing the previous catalogues into one volume, it was found that the amount of funds at our disposal would not permit this to be done at present, and it was therefore resolved to print a second volume, which would incorporate all the supplements to the original catalogue, together with the titles of all new books to date,