

opinions and tastes of every class of the community, and in the comfort, cheerfulness, order, and cleanliness which always distinguish it, and make no small part of its attractiveness, it offers advantages which could not be secured to any individual member for ten times the fee paid in subscription. The library, an equal source of attraction and interest has been as liberally supplied with new books, as the state of the funds would permit. In submission to the popular taste works of Fiction, the demand for which, while it is a subject of regret, the directors cannot control, nor disregard as they form a large source of the attractiveness and revenue of the institute have been liberally supplied. They would, however, respectfully suggest to their successors the importance of using every effort to add to the higher, more solid and useful literature of the library, both to satisfy and to increase the demand in the direction of more valuable reading. They believe that if efforts were made to supply a higher order of books, selected from the literature of the past as well as the present, it would increase that class of members for whom light literature has few attractions, but whose influence and numbers would materially add both to the dignity and the finances of the Institute.

The list of newspapers and magazines regularly supplied to the reading room will be found in appendix C.

The number of books in the library at the date of the last annual report was 7,271
 Added during the year by purchase. 229
 Bound up from the reading room. 104

Total..... 7,604
 Lost and worn-out during the year.. 174

Present Total 7,430

	Vol's. in Library.		Issued.	
	1867.	1868.	1867.	1868.
Biography	587	602	871	860
History	657	673	714	683
Miscellaneous .	577	597	1,012	851
Fiction	2,170	2,209	19,001	16156
Poetry and the				
Drama... ..	235	248	540	619
Periodical Literature	1,110	1,132	3,331	3,031
Science and Art	590	599	585	670
Religious Literature	163	168	252	272
Voyages and				
Travels	503	513	1,045	1,094
Illustrated				
works	221	239
Library of Reference	458	460
	7,271	7,430	27,351	24,236

THE EVENING CLASSES.

Of all the useful and important departments of a Mechanics' Institute the evening classes in their influence on the industrial portion of the community, have the highest claim to public sympathy. The end they have in view is not only to afford a general education and means of improvement for those engaged in the active and industrial pursuits of life, but also a technical education, such as no other educational establishments provided, but which is most necessary to the manufacturing and commercial progress of the country. They do not take the place of the ordinary schools, but when properly constituted they continue this school education, complete it as far as as possible, and in a special manner direct it by appropriate studies to the special interests of the individual students. It is gratifying to the friends of these classes to find that the Legislature of Ontario has to some extent recognized the importance of the principle expressed in these views, by awarding grants to Institutes complying with certain proper conditions, and that our Institute has qualified itself for the grant of \$200 for the present year—the whole to be devoted to educational objects, either in evening class instruction, or in the purchase of books of a technical character for its library. The example of the government in this important direction cannot fail to give a new impulse to adult and technical education, and gives to the evening classes a powerful claim on the sympathies and liberality of all who are interested in the commercial and manufacturing prosperity of the province.

The reports of the examiners were highly satisfactory, and bore testimony to the soundness and excellence of the instruction. Impressed with the importance of introducing technical instruction, the Board of Directors undertook to establish a class in Chemistry and Natural Philosophy, in addition to the subjects previously taught, and placed it under the charge of Dr. May. The results as reported by competent examiners have been very gratifying, and have satisfied the Directors that with proper resources they would be justified in making further advances in the direction of technical and scientific education as applied to the practical purposes of life.

The financial results of the classes are of inferior consideration; for the object should be to make them available to all by fixing the fees at the very lowest standard; and it is this view of their purpose and value which encourage the directors to believe that further appeals to employers and to the wealthy portion of the citizens would so increase the funds of the Institute as to