

able to obtain, at second hand, other £1500: but, owing to the rise in the value of Provincial Debentures in the English market, and the restriction imposed on the Board by the Senate, preventing investment in securities yielding less than six per cent. on the capital invested, the Board have not been able to obtain debentures to a greater amount than £10,500, as indicated by the accounts.

When it became apparent that the difficulty thus experienced would continue, the Board, it will be remembered, applied to the Senate for an extension of their power to invest. By Statute No. 10, the Board were only authorized to invest,

1st, In the purchase of real estate already leased and improved:

2nd, In the purchase of Government Debentures.

3rd, In the improvement of unproductive city property.

As the Act of Parliament only authorised investment in Government or landed securities, it was felt that real estate could not be purchased; and as the third alternative was, from existing circumstances, all but inoperative, the Board were for a time entirely shut up from investing. On 30th August, the Statute of Senate No. 66, authorizing the loan of University funds on mortgage of real estate, was laid before the Board; and, without delay, the Board intimated, by advertisement, that they were prepared to make such investments. The consequence was a perfect deluge of applications; and although the Board have thus had no difficulty in selecting a sufficient number of apparently satisfactory proposals, yet a great deal of the time both of the Board when sitting, and of the Chairman when conducting the routine business of the Office, has been taken up in receiving, considering and replying to these applications: so much so that the Board feel quite satisfied the nominal return of six per cent. on the investment, which is thus obtained, by no means compensates for the cost to the University thus incurred. And this is irrespective altogether of the interruption which is occasioned to the consideration of the numerous applications to purchase which are constantly flowing in, and the attention required to the collection of arrears.