

FORTIETH ANNUAL REPORT.

To the Members of the Hamilton and Gore Mechanics' Institute:—

Whilst rendering their annual statements and accounts, the Board of Directors have much pleasure in reporting a steady progress towards an improved condition of matters, so far as the interests of the Institute are concerned, than existed at the date of the last report. Although this improvement is small, yet, when we consider the depressed state of trade in the Dominion, which has caused other Institutes to fall behind both in income and number of members, we have great reason for congratulation.

The Directors also notice with pleasure the increased use of the advantages offered both in the reading-room and library, now made by all classes of the public. The number of members has increased from 1006 to 1047, and we have reason to believe that as regards membership and attendance, it is one of the most popular Institutes in the Dominion.

THE LIBRARY.

This important branch of the Institute has been a special object of care with the Board. During the present month the usual annual examination has been made, and we are pleased to be able to report that, although nearly 29,000 volumes have been issued during the year, but a very few volumes have been lost. The very complete system adopted two years ago for recording the issue and return of books has tended greatly towards this favorable result. During the year 340 volumes have been added, including some very valuable works in the different departments of literature. The Directors have also much pleasure in reporting that there has been an increased demand for books of a better class.