

valuable additions both to the Circulating and Reference Departments.

The accounts of the Board have been audited, and statements of the moneys received and expended during the year are appended.

It is a matter of regret that the providing of books necessary for maintaining in a state of efficiency a Library of the character and importance of this, has been much interfered with by the want of funds for that purpose. I regret, too, to have to refer to the causes which have brought about this state of affairs, a state of affairs, which, if permitted to continue, may result in very seriously impeding the work the Library is intended to do, and detract from its usefulness. In the last annual report of the Board, reference was made to the action of the City Council of 1895 in regard to providing funds for the Library. It becomes necessary again to refer to this. Early in 1896 this Board prepared and forwarded to the City Council their estimates of the moneys required for Library purposes. In the preparation of these estimates, the Board had in view the need of economizing in every way consistent with the proper maintenance of the Library and its four branches. "The Public Libraries Act, 1895," provides that the Municipal Council, in addition to all other rates and assessments levied and assessed for Municipal purposes, "shall levy and assess" a special annual rate sufficient to furnish the amount estimated by the Board to be necessary for Library purposes, but not exceeding one-quarter of one mill in the dollar upon the assessed value of all ratable real and personal property in the Municipality. The amount of the Board's estimates for 1896 was less than one-quarter of one mill in the dollar upon such assessed value. The City Board of Control reduced the Board's estimates by striking off \$2,500