

that our Transactions should be kept at least up to their present volume and value.

For many reasons the publications which have accumulated during the last seventy-five years have neither been so numerous as they might have been, nor so well preserved as they should have been; and, for want of proper cases and rooms, they have been lying in a state in which it was impossible to use them. Lately, however, the Institute has been engaged in reducing them to order, and has bound up all the volumes which were found to be complete. It is our intention now to get as many as possible of the incomplete works rendered complete, and to add largely to our list of exchanges; so that if we are able to maintain the publication of our own Transactions, we shall very soon acquire a valuable Library of the Transactions of other Societies.

There are many works, however, in which records of progress in Natural Science are contained, which cannot be obtained in this way, but must be purchased; and in cases in which such works are too expensive to be purchased by individual investigators, and are required for purposes of investigation, it would seem to be the duty of the Institute to obtain them. Here our poverty makes judicious selection necessary. But it may be hoped that as our Library increases and is found to be of practical utility, funds available for this purpose may be found also.

And lastly, it is desirable, if not necessary, that in many cases the Institute should provide for investigators instruments which are too costly to be purchased by individuals themselves. Our funds have always been too small to enable us to make any extensive provision of this kind. We have recently, however, purchased an excellent microscope for the use of our members,—such an instrument as individual members could not be expected to purchase for themselves,—and good work has already been done by means of it. There are many instruments of this kind that the Institute ought to possess, and that doubtless will be acquired as time goes on and funds increase.

Such, then, is a rough sketch of the work which, as I conceive it, the Institute has to do; and it will be seen that while in some departments we have been active and successful, in others