

cultivate friendly relations between those who already take an interest in scientific subjects.

The report of the chairman of the council was next read by Mr. J. S. Shearer, as follows:—

REPORT OF CHAIRMAN OF COUNCIL.

The Council of the Natural History Society desires to submit the following report concerning the work done since the last annual meeting. There have been six meetings of the Society and twelve meetings of the Council held during the year just closed.

The Council is pleased to report satisfactory progress. Since the last annual meeting there have been elected one honorary, one corresponding, and sixteen ordinary members.

The Society has recognized the valuable services of Dr. Asa Gray, the celebrated botanist, by electing him an honorary member, and the Hon. Thos. White has been elected a corresponding member on the occasion of his departure from Montreal. The Council, however, whilst acknowledging the support that the Society has received in the past, believes that if its claims were more forcibly urged upon the citizens during the session of 1886-7, there would be a large increase in the membership. Such action, in fact, has become absolutely imperative, as it is upon increased membership that the welfare of the Society largely depends in the future.

The museum has been well patronized, having been visited by over 1,500 persons.

The proposal to improve the interior arrangements of the building has engaged attention during the year. A new light has been placed in the Hall, and other alterations made at considerable expense. The ventilation of the hall demands attention, and certain improvements in this connection will require to be made during the month of June.

The necessity of a complete re-arrangement and classification of the books in the library has long been felt, and with a view to having this accomplished, the Council took action in September last, and Mr. Chas. Robb was engaged to prepare a classified catalogue of all the books, periodicals and