

REPORT OF PETER REDPATH MUSEUM FOR THE
YEAR 1896.

TO THE CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY.

GENTLEMEN.—The Committee begs to report that the Classes in Geology, Mineralogy, Zoology and Botany, and demonstrations in these subjects have been continued as usual, with increasing attendance, and that owing to the greater number of students the Committee has found it necessary to provide some additional apparatus, and to give additional facilities in the lecture theatre and the smaller class-room.

The number of Visitors registered has been 2,600.

The Board of Governors, by request of the Committee, has had the window frames and doors of the entrance and a portion of the entrance hall cleaned and re-varnished, and has placed a flooring in the space under the main roof to protect the ceiling of the upper hall. Electric lighting has also been introduced into the rooms on the lower floor of the Museum.

A grant from the Board of Governors has enabled us to secure the services of Mr. Bailly, jointly with the Museum of the Medical Faculty, as taxidermist and anatomical preparator. He has already gone over a portion of the mammalian skeletons, cleaning and mounting them, and has also mounted a number of additional skeletons and skins presented to or purchased by the Museum. A list of specimens prepared by Mr. Bailly accompanies this Report.

In the course of the year, Mr. E. Ardley, Museum Assistant, has occupied himself with the cleaning, re-arranging and re-labelling of specimens, especially in Palæontology; in these respects the collections may be said to be in much better condition than at any previous period. New locks have also been placed on 72 cases and drawers, and the protection of the upright cases from dust by India rubber strips has been extended as far as permitted by the means at disposal. It is, however, much to be desired that all the upright cases should be protected in this way. Mr. Ardley has also given some time to the better mounting of specimens of fossils and to preparation of slices and polished specimens.

A number of valuable specimens has been added to the collections in Geology, Zoology, Mineralogy and Botany by purchase with the aid of the J. H. R. Molson fund, and by donations. The latter have been recorded in the quarterly lists of donations.

Mrs. Redpath, of the Manor House, Chislehurst, has continued the annual sum of \$1500 for maintenance granted by her late husband, the founder of the Museum; and Mr. J. H. R. Molson has added to his former benefactions for the purchase of specimens the sum of \$500.