

GENERAL AFFAIRS OF THE SOCIETY.

Twenty-eight ordinary members, and six corresponding members have been added to our number during the year.

The usual petition to the Legislature having been prepared, and the Recording Secretary having personally called on members of the Government therewith, the Council have much pleasure in reporting that the sum of \$1,000 has been placed on the estimates as the annual grant to the Society.

The Treasurer's account appended to this report, shows a most gratifying condition of the financial affairs of the Society. The debt on the building has been reduced to an amount not greater than that on the old building of the Society, the liabilities having in the past year been reduced by \$755.19. All the minor accounts have been paid, and there is a prospect that the Society may be able still further to reduce the permanent debt, as well as to carry on its operations with increased vigour.

For the better securing of this last object, the Council would recommend, as necessary to the Society in its present stage of advancement, and as warranted by its financial position, the appointment of some gentleman of scientific tastes and knowledge, as Assistant Secretary and Curator, with a small salary. The great services of Mr. D'Urban in this capacity, are fresh in the memory of the Society, and there are now among our members, several young naturalists of ability and high promise, who could very much benefit the Society and the cause of science, if enabled in this way, to devote a part of their time to its interests. It would be the duty of such an officer to prepare the programme of scientific business for each meeting, to write out the proceedings in a form suitable for publication, to determine and arrange specimens presented to the Society, to take measures for the increase of the collection and library, and generally to work out all the details of our scientific operations, which are now necessarily conducted in a very desultory manner. The Council would ask authority from the Society, to engage some person of the requisite zeal and scientific and business knowledge, as soon as possible, and at a rate of remuneration such as the resources of the Society could afford.

Signed, J. W. DAWSON,
Chairman of the Council.