

The attendance at the Library for the past year, shows a fair increase, but the actual improvement in attendance is much greater than is apparent. By the appointment of a hall porter, the number of indigent or idle persons who previously visited the library for other purposes than literary occupation, has been largely diminished. And Schedule IV represents fairly the number of persons who attend the Library for the purpose of the legitimate use of its literary and artistic advantages.

A large addition was made to the Library in the autumn of last year, by the purchase of about 2500 volumes of books in London, mainly suitable for a circulating library. And a further purchase is contemplated during this autumn. It is also intended to supplement the French department by a number of new books, for which purpose a list is being prepared by a friend of the Institution, thoroughly familiar with modern French literature.

The friends of the Institute have continued, during the past year, their generous donations of books, a list of which is contained in Schedule VII. The Board have determined to publish a compendious catalogue of the entire books of the Institution, in pamphlet or bound form, for circulation, at cost price. This is a necessary preliminary to the effective opening of the circulating branch of the Library, and it is confidently expected to be ready for printing by the end of the present year; although it may be somewhat delayed if the intention of purchasing a large number of new books be carried out. The proposed catalogue will include French as well as English books. And in making the purchase of last autumn, and the list for the purchases of the coming season, the Board have endeavoured to include books mainly of Biography, History, Travels, General Literature and Popular Science, with a moderate addition of the best standard Fiction. The purchase of last autumn was made by the President in person, at very advantageous rates, and, with the intended addition of this autumn, will place the lending library department in an effective condition, as comprising a good selection, on an extensive scale, of standard and current literature of the best description.

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