

The Thirteenth Annual Report.

WITH the close of the Thirteenth year of the Toronto Public Library devolves upon me the duty of reporting its progress during the year 1896. I am pleased to be able to state that the growing interest of the citizens of Toronto in the Library, and their appreciation of its usefulness are marked by an increase of the book circulation ; the total circulation during the year 1896 having reached 535,959, a figure greater than in any previous year, and exceeding that of 1895 by 30,365. This increase has been contributed to by all departments of the Library. The efforts of the Board to bring to the notice of the citizens the opportunities the Library affords of obtaining the very best class of reading matter and books of reference, has no doubt contributed to this increase in circulation.

The constant additions to the books of the Circulating Library having interfered with the practical working of the indicator, formerly in use, it was found necessary to remove it and fill the space it occupied with shelves on which new books, as received, are so arranged as to be readily seen and their titles read from the Public Delivery Room. The change has given general satisfaction.

The question of improving the lighting of the Central Library building came before the Board during the year. After a careful and thorough consideration, Manhattan Arc lamps.