

received a regular sum of \$100 per annum for the purchase of books ; but the difficulty will be to decide which Institute belongs to that class. And whatever mode may be adopted, and whoever may be entrusted with the judgment upon that subject, the probability is that such decision will create dissatisfaction, and be of injury instead of good to the public.

The recommendation of Doctor May, that a good Reading Room be established for every Institute, deserves encouragement, especially since (as the Doctor remarks) it supplies, by its scientific periodicals, the latest improvements and discoveries long before they are obtainable in a book form. Permitting members to take home periodicals the same as books is a rule introduced with good effects in several Institutes; and the establishment of a Museum in connection with Mechanics' Institutes will no doubt prove a great attraction, and if mechanical, philosophical and kindred apparatus were allowed to be purchased out of the Legislative Grant (which at present is not specially permitted), Institutes would thereby be made still more attractive, and in consequence thereof, more useful; moreover, by such permission, Institutes that already have a fair sized library might more judiciously expend the money than by constantly adding books to the shelves. A regular and well devised system of classification of books, and numbering thereof, is not only very desirable, but, for a proper management of a library, is indispensable; and that proper books of account should be kept is self-evident, since without them no account can be rendered. The appointment of women as librarians may be thought advisable, because they can be employed at a far less cost than men, and make excellent librarians. This no doubt is correct, if women could only be got to perform those duties, and could be relied upon to remain in office for any reasonable time; but the experience which some Institutes have made has compelled them to abandon that plan and again engage men who will stay, and will not easily resign. The country is already so overcrowded with exhibitions of various kinds that strong efforts are being made to reduce that number; therefore, however praiseworthy in theory it may be to have Industrial Exhibitions conducted under the management of Mechanics' Institutes, for Ontario at least such establishments appear to be uncalled for. From Doctor May's statement the public is informed that the majority of the Institute officials were very decided in their opinion that the Mechanics' Institute Association of Ontario should be abolished. This is only a confirmation of the views frequently expressed and even published by such officers, and it may therefore be taken for granted that that Association will soon share the fate of its predecessor, the Board of Arts and Manufactures, and be numbered among the things that once were but are now no more. Peace be to its ashes.

Instead of this Association the Doctor proposes a Convention of the Executive Officers of Mechanics' Institutes to meet annually for discussing, considering and recommending improvements.