

public interest in its proceedings. This last desirable object the Council think would be best attained by the publication and gratuitous distribution of our transactions among the members. Preceding Councils have advised and attempted this, but as yet without success. With our limited income such a step has hitherto been quite impossible. It is therefore to be hoped that the prayer of our just and reasonable petition to His Excellency the Governor and to the Legislature will meet with a favorable response.

#### LECTURES.

Your Council have much pleasure in reporting that the series of Lectures, in accordance with the Somerville bequest, have been of much interest this season, and been generally well attended. The gentlemen who have lectured with so much acceptance are all members of your Society, and are entitled to your thanks for their zeal on its behalf. The Council deem that it would be an improvement, did your funds permit, to invite some of the distinguished naturalists of Britain, the United States, or Canada West, to take part in these lectures. They would commend this matter to the consideration of their successors, hoping that means may be found to carry it into effect.

The subjects of the lectures are as follows:—

Things to be observed in Canada and especially in Montreal and its vicinity, by PRINCIPAL DAWSON, the President, 25th February.

Scripture Botany, by the REV. A. DE SOLA, LL.D., 4th March.

On the Alkalies, by T. S. HUNT, Esq., 8th March.

Marine Algæ, by the REV. A. F. KEMP, 18th March.

The Boracic Acid Springs of Italy, by MR. DUTTON, 25th March.

#### MUSEUM.

The Council have much pleasure in reporting that the Museum has undergone a thorough review and re-arrangement, under the able superintendence of Mr. W. S. M. D'Urban, for some time our sub-curator. The departments of Ornithology and Mammalia have been carefully classified, and many new specimens added. Upon each object the specific name has been placed; and the divisions of genera, family and class, have been noted and labelled. The Ethnological collection has also been judiciously arranged and described. The valuable collection of Minerals and Fossils,