

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL.

The past year has been characterised by steady progress and prosperity in the affairs of the Society. The papers read have been numerous and important, the publication of the *Naturalist* has been maintained with its usual vigour, the annual course of Somerville lectures has been delivered to crowded audiences, considerable additions have been made to the library and museum, the number of members has increased, and the legislative grant and the increased amount of fees from members have much improved the financial position of the Society. Such details as are necessary under these heads may be stated as follows :—

PAPERS READ.

Since last annual meeting seventeen important papers have been read, all of which have been published in the *Canadian Naturalist and Geologist*, or are now in course of publication, and which have been noticed in detail in the address of the President.

Many other papers not read before the Society, especially a very valuable one by Mr. T. Sterry Hunt, and short notices on various subjects connected with Canadian Natural History, have been published. This Society may thus fairly take the credit of having been the medium through which in the past year many contributions of much importance have been made to Natural History and Geology.

PUBLICATION OF THE NATURALIST.

A very important movement in connection with the *Naturalist* is the employment of a portion of the Provincial grant to the Society in organising a system of exchanges with the leading scientific publications of Britain, America, and the continent of Europe. This will in the ensuing year publish more extensively than heretofore the matter contained in the *Naturalist*. It will afford a wider range of material for comment and selection; and will tend materially to the increase of the Library. It will also much extend the reputation of this Society and of Canadian Science in general; since wherever it is known, the *Naturalist* is now regarded as one of the most important representatives of Natural History on this continent.

While all the members of the Editing Committee have exerted themselves on behalf of the *Naturalist*, it is due to Mr. D. Allan Poe to state, that on him has fallen as heretofore the chief burden of editorial supervision, and that the Society is very much indebted to his exertions in this important part of its work.