

THIRD ANNUAL REPORT.

In presenting their third annual report, the Board of Management are pleased to be able to record a steadily increasing interest, during the year just ended, in every department of the Institution.

The returns of circulation show a diminution during the year in the department of fiction, to the extent of 12,324 volumes, and an increase in the circulation of higher class literature to the extent of 4,488 volumes. This shows a net decrease of 7,846 on a circulation of 270,095 volumes.

In the Reference Department of the Library, a very gratifying indication of its steadily increasing popularity is noticeable. We find that the number of books, periodicals, etc., taken out during the year was 13,859 as against 11,201 for the previous year. This must be regarded as most encouraging evidence that any efforts on the part of the Board to improve and popularize this most important department will be duly appreciated by the public and warrants them in supplementing the existing Card Catalogue by a printed Finding List.

During the past year 2,601 Reader's Tickets have been granted, making a total number of 14,445 in use on the 31st December, a fact which shows that the entire Library is enjoying a steadily increasing confidence from the reading public.

The number of postal cards which it has been found necessary to issue for over-due books has considerably increased during the past year, being eleven hundred more than for the year 1885. It would be well if some means could be devised to diminish this growing inconvenience, if not positive evil.

The number of volumes added to the Library, from all sources, during the year amount to 3,146, in addition to 1,200 volumes which have been purchased but not delivered. Among these are to be found some most valuable as well as interesting contributions to the different departments. We have now a library of upwards of 44,000 volumes of books,