

Museum affords, your Council recommend that steps be taken for increasing the contributions to it. Similar Societies ought to be communicated with, respecting an interchange of duplicate specimens, of which there is a large number in your collection, and corresponding and ordinary members be advised that donations will be acceptable and publicly acknowledged. Among the additions now being made to the Museum, your Council deem the *Aquarian* and *Microscopic departments* deserving of special notice.

By the Treasurer's Report, it appears that the cost of the new building has been \$10,553.75; and that the debt still due upon it is about \$3,600, of which \$2,400 is secured by mortgage, and the balance, \$1,200, including some accounts not yet settled, exists as a floating debt.

The assistance and countenance afforded to similar institutions by European Governments, led your Council to believe that, in a new country like this, the natural resources of which require to be developed, and the tone and character of its society formed, the Legislature, to whom an application was made, would cheerfully have aided the efforts of your Society in effecting these desirable ends. But such has not been the case, and, therefore, your Council, impressed with the belief that the pursuits of the natural sciences and literature, are not yet fully appreciated here, take this occasion of directing public attention to the pleasure, instruction, and recreation to be derived from them.

Whoever has experienced the harass and fatigue of spirit arising from close application of the mental powers for any lengthened time to one absorbing and anxious object, must have felt the craving of the mind for some new occupation, which, by a healthful change, might relieve the fatigue and weariness of the overwrought and over-exerted mental organs. This relief is not always to be obtained by absolute rest. The mere cessation of exertion does not satisfy to fill the void created by long and tiring labor on an exclusive subject. Again, when from illness, misfortune, or any other cause, the laborious man of business, or the diligent student, is incapacitated for his accustomed pursuits, how depressing is the languor which attends him in his retirement, unless he has some intellectual resources on which to