

LAW SOCIETY.

the Military College at Kingston was referred to the Legal Education Committee for consideration and report.

The letter from Mr. Morgan accompanying the Queen's Book was read, and the Treasurer reported that he had acknowledged the same.

The Finance Committee reported that they had considered the question of the care and proper maintenance of the grounds about Osgoode Hall, and recommended that the work in connection with them be given to Mr. James Stephens, a skilled gardener who had tendered for the same.

The report was adopted on the understanding that the tender should include the manuring of the trees, and the planting of fresh trees, the manure and trees to be provided by the Society.

TUESDAY, 18TH NOVEMBER.

Present—The Treasurer and Messrs. Moss, Morris, Bethune, J. F. Smith, Foy, Britton, Irving, Hudspeth, Maclennan, Hoskin, S. H. Blake, Murray, Martin, Read and Kerr.

The minutes of last meeting were read.

Mr. Martin, from the County Library Aid Committee, presented their report as follows:—

COUNTY LIBRARY AID COMMITTEE.
OSGOODE HALL, 18th Nov., 1884.

The County Libraries Aid Committee beg leave to report as follows:—

1. The time fixed by the Rule 141 for the re-consideration of the scheme for establishing County Libraries expired in June last, and under the terms of this Rule the whole question is now open for re-consideration.

2. In February last our Committee issued a circular calling the attention of the profession to the subject, requesting that all applications for the establishment of libraries should be made promptly, and inviting suggestions as to the establishment or continuance of County Libraries. This circular was sent to the County Judge, County Attorney and Deputy Clerk of the Crown in each county and to many members of the profession.

3. The Committee has received and considered information and suggestions from several of the County Judges and many members of the profession upon the subject of the County Libraries.

4. The Committee finds that the libraries have proved of great value to the judges and the profession generally, and recommends that the system be continued and the County Libraries maintained and placed on a permanent footing.

5. Applications have been received since February last for the establishment of three new County Libraries, *i.e.*, County of Welland, County of

Essex and County of Perth. In the case of the County of Welland some formal proofs are yet required. In the Essex case the articles of incorporation require that the library is to be kept at Windsor, where the County Judge resides and where the Judge's Chambers and the Warden's offices are kept, and almost all the practitioners reside (there being no resident practitioners in the County town) and the Committee recommends that under the circumstances this change be permitted. In the County of Perth case the application has not been completed owing to there being no suitable room for the library in the Court House, and no arrangements yet made for keeping the library elsewhere, but these difficulties are expected to be overcome shortly, and this Committee recommends that the usual grant be made to these associations when proof of their organization and the other proofs required by the rules have been duly completed and reported on to the Finance Committee.

6. A statement is annexed shewing the sums actually contributed to the seven County Libraries now in operation, the gross amount being \$6,069 of which \$2,820 are for Initiatory Grants, and \$3,249 for annual grants spread over the four years.

7. The Committee recommends that the Initiatory Grant to libraries already established be increased in cases where the initiatory grant received from the Law Society has not equalled the sums paid in cash, and the value of the books given to the County Library Association provided that such increase should not in the whole exceed the sum of \$20 for each practitioner resident in the County at the date of the establishment of such association, and in case contributions in money or books made to any existing library association and to be taken into account in estimating its first grant have been sufficient to entitle it to the maximum grant of \$20, the contributions may be supplemented at any time before 1st May, 1885, and that any future applications for the establishment of County Libraries should be referred to Convocation to be dealt with as the state of the finances of the Law Society may permit and Convocation shall see fit.

8. The Committee recommend that the annual grant should hereafter be based upon the amount contributed in cash for annual subscriptions by the members of the association instead of being regulated as at present to a great extent by the number of practitioners resident in each county.

9. The Committee believe that the change will not only give the members of these associations a greater inducement to contribute to the maintenance of the libraries, but will afford a satisfactory assurance to the Law Society for the efficient carrying out of the scheme, the adoption of this principle will not it is believed materially increase the annual grant to be made by the Law Society as it would appear from the returns that in every county there are resident practitioners who are not contributors to the funds of the County Libraries. The annual subscription under the present system ranges from \$2 to \$10 per annum, but in most cases \$5 is adopted, and this sum seems to be reasonable and within the reach of all practitioners.

9a. The Committee recommend that in future the annual grants be made on the basis of the Law Society contributing an amount equal to that