

the heart,—your Board have been careful to exclude all, excepting those of admitted moral excellence.

Reference to the very prevalent taste for novel reading, especially among the young, was made in the last report, with a few words of earnest advice to parents and guardians of such frequenting the library; but from the fact that of the number of works issued last year over 23,000 were fiction, but little fruit seems to have been borne by the remarks then made. The Board think it their duty to repeat these strictures. The objects of Mechanics' Institutes are of a higher and nobler nature than that of their being converted into mere circulating libraries for the indulgence of a perverted taste, and the Directors conceive that they would fail in their duties and responsibilities, did they not seriously urge upon those having the charge of very young persons, the propriety of, in some measure, guiding and directing their taste in the selection of books.

With regard to the

HALL,

but little has to be said in this Report. During the past year, the old scenery has been repainted, and several new and attractive scenes added; the stage decorations being now fairly acceptable to most companies engaging it. A new system has sprung up of late which seems to be in vogue generally with travelling companies, *i. e.*, instead of renting the Hall for the night, giving a percentage of their receipts. This involves very considerable additional work on the superintendent to make the performance a financial success, and the necessity of additional assistance to that official will probably become a question for the incoming Board, as at present he has been much overworked.

CLASSES.

In this department, another branch of usefulness has been opened to the Institute, and your Board have peculiar satisfaction in finding that their efforts in past years to establish a course of class instruction during the winter season have at length been crowned with complete success.

Classes under efficient teachers in book-keeping, writing and arithmetic, with a large attendance in each branch, were opened early in the winter and have been successfully carried out. In fact the space afforded for the use of the