

donation of sixty specimens of East Indian birds from Major G. E. Bulger, who has previously given many valuable and interesting donations of objects of various kinds from that part of the world. The consignment has been shipped by the Scandinavian, and may be expected at an early date.

The additions to the library are about equal to the average of other years. The most important of them are illustrated monographs on the sponges, hydrozoa, zoophytes, and sessile eyed crustaceans, purchased with a special view to working up the St. Lawrence species. Every year the Society becomes better known and appreciated by kindred associations in Europe and the United States. Did our finances permit, there are few scientific bodies in either of these countries with whom we should not exchange periodicals, reports, &c. For this and for other reasons an amount of correspondence is involved which occupies more and more of my time every year.

Gentlemen,—the session which is now brought to a close terminates the first decade of my association with this Society. I am free to admit that, reviewing the past ten years, the hopes that I once entertained as to the future of this Institution have not been realized. The success or failure of this Society in particular affords, as it seems to me, a fair criterion of the value which the inhabitants of the city set upon higher education generally. Yet how lamentably small has been the support or aid accorded to the Society by our wealthy citizens. For the last three years it has laboured under such a pressure of pecuniary difficulties that during that time literally nothing has been spent on either the Museum or Library. The Hall, the Gallery and Museum have never been properly cleaned since the building was erected, and improvements which are most urgently needed have been found impracticable, and abandoned for want of funds. That some interest is taken in the work which we are engaged in attempting to further, is manifest from the fact that upwards of 1000 persons have visited the Museum during the past twelve months. Were our collections made more worthy of this commercial and wealthy metropolis, and the building thrown open freely to the public, it is reasonable to suppose that the number of visitors to the Institution would be very largely increased. I should not have ventured to offer these remarks, especially as similar ones have been dwelt upon in the able address of the Acting President, but that I had a special object in so doing.