

Mr. W. Edwards, in connection with the Journal; and sincerely hope that their successors in office, in securing his services for the ensuing year, may be able to afford some substantial acknowledgment of his labours.

Free Library of Reference.

Owing to other demands on the funds of the Board, but comparatively few additions have been made to the Library during the year. The total number of volumes on the shelves at last report was 1,171; added during the year 102; total number now in Library 1,273; comprising British, American, and Canadian Specifications and Plates of Patents, 584 vols.; Statutes, Journals and other Parliamentary Publications, 167 vols.; Transactions of Societies, 33 vols.; and of the latest Cyclopædias and Standard Works on Architecture, Decoration, Designing, Engineering and Mechanics, Manufactures and Trades, and General Science, 489 vols. Of these your Committee acknowledge donations from the United States Patent Office of 6 vols. (in duplicate); from the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, 1 vol.; from the Smithsonian Institution, 1 vol.; from the Board of Agriculture for Upper Canada, 3 vols.; and from the heads of departments of the Government of this Province, the regular transmission to the Rooms of the Statutes, Journals, Sessional Papers, Blue Books, and other Parliamentary documents.

The library has been regularly kept open to the public from 10 a.m. till 4 p.m. each day; and on Tuesday and Friday evenings from 7 till 10 o'clock, to afford to persons engaged in industrial pursuits the opportunity of consulting the works it contains.

Annual Examinations.

The examination of members of Mechanics' Institutes in certain studies named in the published programme, and awarding to them certificates according to individual merit, as established by the Board in 1862, was comparatively successful during the past year. There were sixteen candidates out of the seventeen whose papers were returned to the Board, that obtained certificates: the number awarded being, of 1st Class, six; of 2nd Class, eleven; and of 3rd Class, nineteen; full particulars of which were published on page 197 of the Journal for the past year. Your Committee consider this result sufficiently encouraging to induce the Board to persevere, trusting that the time may soon arrive when these examinations shall be as popular as they are calculated to be beneficial in the education of the adult working classes.

School of Arts.

A special Committee was recently appointed to report on the practicability of establishing a

School of Design in connection with the Board, the report of which Committee appeared in the December No. of the Journal, recommending that, instead of a School of Design merely, it would be more desirable to organize one combining Chemistry and Natural Philosophy with Drawing and Designing; the Special Committee was therefore re-appointed, with instructions to prepare a plan and estimate of cost of such a School of Arts; and at the last meeting of your Committee their report of the following scheme and estimates was presented, and is now submitted and recommended for consideration and adoption by the Board:—

1st. That the School be in three divisions, each distinct from the others, and to be commenced either separately or together as the circumstances may permit.

The first division to be for the study of Natural Philosophy and Chemistry.

The second division for Drawing, Designing, and Modelling.

The third division for Practical Mathematics.

2nd. The course of study to be pursued in the first division should embrace those subjects contained in classes 8, 13, 15 and 16 of the programme of annual examinations of the Board for the present year, namely, "Principles of Mechanics," "Practical Mechanics," "Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy," and "Geology and Mineralogy."

The teacher of this division should be a gentleman engaged by the Board at an annual salary. His duty should be, 1st, to give practical instruction in the classes during their sessions, on four nights per week; and in each week to give one popular lecture on science. 2nd. For one month preceding the fall session, and for one month after the spring session, to travel as a lecturer to those Mechanics' Institutes affiliated with the Board. 3rd. To edit a Chemistry and Experimental Philosophy department of the Journal. With a view to supplementing the salary paid by the Board, he be allowed to practise as an analyst on his own account, when not engaged in his duties in connection with the Board.

3rd. The fall session to commence on the first Monday in October, immediately after the teacher shall have finished his first month of lecturing, and to continue until the Friday preceding Christmas-day. The spring session to commence on the second Monday in January, and continue until the last Friday in May; after which the teacher should travel and lecture during the month of June. During the months of July and August there should be full vacation for the teacher, excepting his duties in connection with the Journal.

4th. During the sessions, two evenings in each week should be occupied in the study of Natural Philosophy, and two evenings in Chemistry; and on one evening in each week a popular lecture on some practical scientific subject should be delivered, the admission to which should be free to the public, with a view not only to impart instruction as widely as possible, but to induce individuals to join the school.

5th. The second division should include instruction in Elementary and Geometrical Drawing, as well as the higher branches of Art; particular attention being given to the drawing and modelling of organic forms, with a view to the attainment of such an accurate knowledge of their structure as shall enable the