

having been made to check over the books by the entries in either, and thus to ascertain what the contents of the Library actually were at that time. It is probable, therefore, that some of the books that appear in the catalogue of 1886 were at that time missing. In fact, of the books which cannot now be found, all but 44 had been published, and were probably in this Library, prior to 1886, so that many of them may have disappeared during the period 1880-86, although retained in the catalogue of the latter year.

The result of the stock-taking was the discovery that since 1880 the Library had lost 253 volumes, other than reports and statutes, and not a few of the latter. A catalogue list of the 253 missing books accompanies this report. It shows that 39 are books of general literature, 31 books prescribed by the Law Society on its curriculum, and 41 other books designed for the use of students. It is worth noting that 62 volumes were of duodecimo, or still smaller size. Among the missing books is Theodore Martin's "Life of the Prince Consort," presented by Her Majesty the Queen, with her autograph. It is possible that a few of the missing books may yet be restored, as volumes that have been absent for many months occasionally re-appear in a mysterious manner. During the past year several that had been missing for periods varying from twelve months to two years were returned to the shelves, and others that had disappeared from view for only a few months were discovered in offices and rooms throughout the building.

It is the intention of the Librarian to introduce a system which, when once perfected, will render the operation of stock-taking a comparatively easy one, so that it may be performed every year without much trouble. It is at present impossible to determine accurately what the Society's stock of certain classes of books is.

The attention of the Committee is earnestly directed to the fact that the shelf accommodation for books is so nearly exhausted that, at the present rate of accession, the whole space now vacant on the shelves will be filled within a little over two years. This space, measured at the average volume, is made up as follows :