

everything undertaken involves a great deal of labor. The most disagreeable work, and involving the most waste of time is the collection of the members' fees. I think it is possible to keep the membership of the Society up to five or six hundred by means of ordinary collectors, but beyond that, it becomes almost a matter of personal influence, and the subscriptions thus obtained cost almost as much as they are worth. Still, it must be borne in mind, that the amount in members' fees usually obtained, over and above the ten to twelve hundred dollars before referred to, generally suffices to to pay the Secretary's salary, and all clerical expenses. In the Secretary's report published with the Ninth Report of the Society, may be found a statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Society for twenty years, showing that they had rather more than doubled in the last ten. It may, perhaps, surprise some, that the working expenses have been rather less proportionately for the latter ten years. The Secretary's salary from 1864 to 1873, absorbed about 13½ per cent. off the gross income, and about 45 per cent. off the members' fees, which included \$450 received for life-membership. From 1874 to 1883, the Secretary's salary absorbed about 13 per cent. off the gross income, and about 28½ per cent. off the member's fees, none of which was for life-membership. From the above it would seem as if the Society were more cheaply worked now than in former years. Extra clerical assistance was employed then as now, and having in mind the size of the exhibitions, an altogether larger staff was employed. At the close of the year 1873 the Montreal Horticultural Society was without position or power to do any good. Now it has a position equalled by few. At that time, it had cash in hand amounting to \$7.02, and plant estimated at about \$260 in value. Since then it has paid out over \$32,000 in various ways. About \$1,200 has been expended in purchase and improvement of materials used at the exhibitions, \$1,119 has been expended in the purchase of Bank of Montreal stock, which is held in reserve to meet all liabilities in the event of a bad year. Some \$700 of liabilities at this time last year, have been paid off, and there is a good balance now at the credit of the Society. In view of the great fluctuations of income secured from the public for entrance to the exhibition, varying since 1874 from \$118 to \$1,435, the various boards of directors must have managed the affairs of the Society with considerable care, to be able to present so good a result. The fact is that a great amount of work not generally known is done for the Society for which nothing is paid, and for which the Society could not afford to pay adequately. I think it may be said that, in usefulness at least, our work for the past year will bear comparison with that of any previous year.

In conclusion, I think that it is due to the members of this Society and