

ally the publications of societies abroad, and some of which are not accessible elsewhere in this city. Much has been done of late years by our honorary librarian, Mr. Beaudry, and by the library committee in enlarging our library and binding its numerous periodical publications, but the Society has always lacked the means to develop its usefulness in this direction. In the last session the Society has well sustained its work in the reading and in the publication of papers. I may mention among these the interesting *résumé* by Dr. T. Wesley Mills of the work of the American Association in 1887, and papers by him on important physiological subjects; the papers by Mr. A. T. Drummond on the Prairies of Manitoba and on the Geographical and Geological Relations of British North American Plants; those of Prof. Penhallow on Physiological Botany; that on Fossil Sponges by Dr. Hinde and myself; those on Cambrian and Siluro-Cambrian Fossils by Mr. Matthew and Mr. Ami; Dr. Rae's interesting Notes on Mammals and Birds of the Hudson's Bay Territories, and an important contribution on Water Analysis by Mr. McGill, and on the Climate of the Northwest by Mr. Ingersoll; New Species of Fresh-water Sponges from Newfoundland by Mr. McKay, and a paper on a Destructive Visitation of Field-mice in Nova Scotia by Rev. Dr. Patterson. A number of other subjects, however, occupied our attention at the monthly meetings, and will be found in the RECORD OF SCIENCE. By way of practical conclusion, I need not hesitate to affirm that what the Society has done with very slender means might be largely increased if more ample resources were provided, and that both our fellow-citizens and the Provincial Government are called upon to lend us their aid. It has been well remarked that in societies of this kind the actual work is done gratuitously by scientific laborers who ask for no public recompense, and that all that the state and the general public are called on to do is that smaller part which consists in affording means of publication. No work for the public benefit is so cheaply and economically accomplished as that of scientific societies, and it is for this reason that such societies are so