

NINTH ANNUAL

Report of the Librarian

To the Chairman and Members of the Board of Management :

GENTLEMEN,—I have the honor to present herewith my annual report for the year ending December 31st, 1897.

GENERAL STATEMENT.

The number of volumes at last report was 24,059 volumes. The total accessions for the year have been 1,051 volumes, comprising

- (a) 742 new books obtained by purchase,
 - (b) 211 volumes of magazines from reading rooms,
 - (c) 98 volumes as gifts from various sources,
- making a present total of 25,110 volumes.

In addition to the new accessions there were 646 volumes purchased to replace books worn out and condemned. The total number of volumes purchased was 1,388, costing \$1,492.51, an average of \$1.07 per volume.

The high price of many of the new books, such as the *Life of Lord Tennyson*, *Lord Roberts' Forty-one Years in India*, etc., tends to increase the average cost of the books purchased.

The Library was open 305 days during the year. The building was closed on 52 Sundays and 8 holidays. The total use of the books was 218,462 volumes, an average daily use of 716 volumes. These figures show that each of the 25,110 volumes in the Library was handled on an average eight times during the year.

The volumes purchased to replace worn out and condemned books were largely works of fiction, with a liberal sprinkling of books on travel, education, useful arts and general literature.