

REPORT OF COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE
MCDONALD PHYSICS BUILDING.

TO THE CORPORATION OF MCGILL UNIVERSITY.

GENTLEMEN,—In reporting the progress made during the year 1896, the Committee of Management of the McDonald Physics Building desire to call attention first to the completion of the Endowment. Mr. W. C. McDonald, in the month of May, increased the sum of \$40,000, already set aside for this purpose, by a further gift of \$110,000, making \$150,000 in all. According to careful estimates, it is believed that the income from this endowment will provide for the maintenance of the Building, including heating, lighting and insurance; the salaries of the necessary Demonstrators; the wages of a janitor and a first-class instrument maker; and the annual cost of materials consumed, together with additions to the apparatus from time to time. This last munificent gift assures the perpetual continuance of the work in the Physics Department with unimpaired efficiency, and without laying any charge on the general fund of the University.

The Committee feels satisfaction in noting the increase in the number of students (now above 200) receiving regular instruction in the Laboratory, as well as the frequency with which the Lecture Theatre is made use of for the purposes of other Departments.

As might naturally be expected in a new Laboratory, the time of the Professors and Demonstrators has necessarily been largely devoted to the setting up and adjustment of new instruments. It is hoped, however, that such work may be completed in the course of the ensuing summer vacation. In the meanwhile a considerable amount of research has been accomplished, leading to interesting results which have appeared in the Proceedings of the Royal Society of Canada and other Scientific Bodies. A brief notice of the principal points investigated may fitly conclude this Report.

Within a few days of the arrival of the news of Dr. Roentgen's discovery, Professor Cox, on Feb. 7th, succeeded in making one of the first applications of this process to surgery, by the photographic location of a bullet in the leg of a patient. An account of the experiments and of the extraction of the bullet is given in the *Montreal Medical Journal*, March, 1896.

Since that date he has been engaged in conjunction with Professor Callendar, in investigating the conditions of production of the Roentgen rays, and the best method of obtaining clear and quick photographs. A paper containing some of the most important results, especially those bearing on the nature of X rays, was read at the last meeting of the Royal Society of Canada.