St. Bride Foundation Institute.

[We regret that owing to an accident, the opening of this Institute has not been recorded sooner.]

The new lending, reference, and technical libraries in connection with the St. Bride Foundation Institute, in Bride Lane, Fleet Street, were opened on November 20th, 1895, by Sir Walter Besant. The technical libraries, which are available for the use of students attending the advanced section of the Institute course of technical instruction, consist of modern works on printing, paper-making, bookbinding, and the allied arts, which section has been presented by Mr. J. Passmore Edwards, and also the unique collection of books, prints, and pamphlets of the late Mr. William Blades, comprising nearly 3,000 volumes—four-fifths of which are works relating to the art of printing, the remainder being mainly specimens of typography, illustrating the various periods of its progress. The general reference and lending library of 10,000 volumes is established by arrangement with the governors of the Cripplegate Foundation, as a branch of the central public library for the western half of the City now in process of formation. The Rev. E. C. Hawkins, chairman of the governors, presided, and among those present were Sir Walter Besant, Mr. G. Manville Fenn, Mr. Anthony Hope, Mr. and Mrs. J. Passmore Edwards, Sir Henry Longley, Dr. Garnett, and Mr. Alderman Treloar. The Chairman explained that the ceremony marked the completion of the scheme framed in accordance with the City of London Parochial Charities Act of 1883. Sir Walter Besant, in declaring the new libraries open for use, gave a detailed account of the historical and present day aspects of the locality, remarking that the Institute stood in the centre of an activity of the most remarkable character in the world, and was essentially the type of institute which the everyday requirements of the neighbourhood demanded. On the motion of Mr. G. Manville Fenn, seconded by Mr. G. Byron Curtis, and supported by Mr. Anthony Hope, a vote of congratulation was passed in favour of the governors of the Cripplegate and St. Bride Foundations, Mr. Felton responding on behalf of the Cripplegate body, and Mr. Alderman Treloar on behalf of St. Bride's. A vote of thanks was accorded Sir Walter Besant and Mr. Passmore Edwards, on the motion of Mr. J. Farlow Wilson (chairman of the library committee), seconded by Mr. C. J. Drummond. Sir H. Longley (Chief Charity Commissioner) also supported the motion. A handsomely printed "Account of the Blades and Passmore Edwards Libraries," by Mr. John Southward, was distributed to visitors, and a copy of the general library catalogue was presented to Sir Walter Besant by Mr. Farlow Wilson.

F. W. J. L.

Victoria Institute, Worcester.

Open Access System.

The Victoria Institute, which is now nearing completion, is Worcester's Royal Jubilee Memorial, and has been built at a cost of £45,000. Nearly one half of this sum has been raised by public subscription, the remainder being voted by the City Council.