REPORT OF THE CHAIRMAN OF THE LIBRARY
COMMITTEE TO THE FRANKLIN INSTITUTE,
MEETING OF JUNE 21, 1899.

The library is one of the most important, most efficient means the institute has for promoting applied science of all kinds. It is highly desirable that the members of the Institute should be kept well informed of the condition of the library and its progress and needs.

The library now contains about 49,600 volumes, besides about 33,500 pamphlets. It receives regularly about 460 periodicals. It is applied to by about 150 visitors a day, of whom about fifty are not members of the Institute, and are chiefly investigators of patents. In addition to applications for reference to books at the library, there are constantly about 175 volumes loaned out to members. For the increase of the library there are: The Bloomfield Moore Fund, yielding about \$750 a year; the Matthew Carey Lea Fund, for chemical and physical books, about \$150 a year; the Memorial Library Fund, about \$50 a year, and the Jas. T. Morris Fund, lately provided by the liberality of Mr. John T. Morris, and soon to be availed of, about \$50 a year; making in all about \$1,000 a year for the purchase of books. The Board of Managers has appropriated this year \$1,500 for the maintenance of the library, of which \$500 is more particularly for binding.

The additions to the library during the past two months were 1,223 volumes, besides 584 duplicates, of which about 700 were gifts, including one very handsome gift of about 600 volumes from Dr. Wahl, Secretary of the Institute, and fifty-two volumes and twenty-seven pamphlets were purchased. There are, besides, the weekly, monthly or quarterly parts of periodicals received in exchange for the *Journal* or subscribed for. The binding of the periodicals and other volumes, which had latterly fallen seriously behind, is now gradually getting brought up again. Last year, highly appreciated subscriptions for that purpose were obtained to the amount of about \$1,000, and this year the \$500 from the Board of Managers will continue the work and enable the current periodical volumes to be bound. If the Board should be able to make an equal appropriation next year, the binding will be fairly well accomplished. Two new regulations have lately been established. For the benefit particularly of those who are studying up special subjects, the number of books that may be borrowed from the library by a member at one time has been increased to four, instead of two. The new additions to the library are now placed on view for a month.

The most pressing present need of the library is a suitable place for the immensely valuable, but, in its present condition, useless, collection of 33,500 pamphlets. There is no room for them in the new fireproof bookstack, and they lie in some confusion in the third story. There are two or three projects under consideration for their accommodation. The most promising, perhaps, is the construction of a fireproof room above the present bookstack; but that would cost several hundred dollars, a great sum for our slender means.

BENJ. SMITH LYMAN.

PHILADELPHIA, June 21, 1899.

Chairman.