

The Library Association.

REPORT OF THE COUNCIL, AS ADOPTED AND AMENDED AT THE
TWENTY-FIRST ANNUAL MEETING HELD AT SOUTHPORT, ON
AUGUST 23RD, 1898.

The Council beg leave to present their Report to the Twenty-first Annual Meeting, and to congratulate the fellows and members on the fact that the Association will attain its majority on the 5th October next.

During the year there have been held nine general meetings of the Association, two of these being special general meetings, while the members of the Council have been summoned on nineteen occasions, exclusive of the large number of attendances required for the transaction of the business of the various Committees.

Owing to deaths and resignations, thirty-three names have been removed from the list of members, but with the election of thirty-three new ordinary members, thirteen libraries, and five associates, there is a net addition of eighteen to the roll of membership.

Amongst those who have died since the issue of the last Annual Report are Sir E. A. Bond, K.C.B., LL.D., formerly Principal Librarian of the British Museum, and Dr. Justin Winsor, Librarian of Harvard University; also one of our Associates, Mr. C. L. Thompson, Assistant Librarian of the Institution of Civil Engineers, whose death prematurely cut short a career of great promise.

Sir E. A. Bond was one of the founders of the Association, and President for the year 1886. Sir Edward Bond's attainments in palæography gave him a European reputation, while his services to the National Collection as Principal Librarian of the British Museum will cause his name to be recorded among the great English Librarians. To high mental qualities he added a kindly bearing, which endeared him to all with whom he came in contact.

The death of our Honorary Fellow, Dr. Justin Winsor, was a severe blow to us as well as to the American Library Association, of which he was so distinguished an ornament. Dr. Winsor attended the first International Conference, in 1877, as well as that of last year. He was also with us at Reading and on other occasions, and took the greatest interest in our proceedings. His dignified manner, sound scholarship, and enthusiasm in bibliothecal and bibliographical questions will ensure him an honoured place in the minds of all librarians.

TWENTIETH ANNUAL MEETING.

The Twentieth Annual Meeting was held in London, in the rooms of the Society of Arts in the Adelphi in October, 1897; and taking into consideration the short interval elapsing after the great International Conference held at the Guildhall in the previous July, it is a remarkable proof of the energy and vitality of our organisation that it was possible to arrange a programme of papers equal in merit and interest to those

brought forward at any previous meeting. The attendance was large and representative, and the discussions practical and useful. The Twentieth Annual Meeting was most successful and agreeable in every way.

TRANSACTIONS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE SECOND INTERNATIONAL LIBRARY CONFERENCE, 1897.

The Transactions and Proceedings of this Conference have now been published in the form of a handsome volume, reflecting the highest credit upon the Editors. It is an exhaustive record of the deliberations of the Conference, and a valuable contribution to the literature of librarianship and bibliography.

INCORPORATION OF THE ASSOCIATION.

The year under review has been made memorable by the acquisition of a Royal Charter of Incorporation, graciously granted by Her Majesty the Queen, on the petition of the Marquess of Dufferin and Ava, Lord Windsor, Sir John Lubbock, and Messrs. Tedder and MacAlister; to each of whom the Council consider the Association rests under deep obligation for the active interest and testimony which has been necessary to secure this high recognition of the objects and status of the Association.

LEGISLATION.

The Council and its Legislation Committee continue to watch over all measures introduced into Parliament which in any way affect the interests or well-being of libraries.

On July 15th Lord Windsor, one of our past Presidents, introduced in the House of Lords the Public Libraries Acts Amendment Bill, drafted under the direction and at the expense of the Association, but on the day fixed for the second reading, owing to the lateness of the Session, his Lordship judged it best to withdraw the Bill, with a view to its re-introduction early in the next Parliamentary Session. Your Council desire to express their thanks to Lord Windsor for the assistance he has rendered, and the close attention he has, in conference with the Honorary Solicitor and Honorary Secretary, given to the subject. Should the Bill, as now drafted, be eventually placed upon the Statute Book, it will go far to improve the conditions under which public libraries are established and carried on for the benefit of the community.

An Act has been passed providing for the punishment of offences in libraries; the amendments introduced in the House of Lords were of value, as simplifying the measure in regard to the procedure to be adopted to bring the law into operation. The want of some such power in library management has long been felt; hitherto there have been provisions for making necessary rules and regulations, but none for enforcing their observance, a condition of things now remedied.

The position of library authorities in London being affected by certain Bills introduced, or about to be introduced into Parliament, the whole question has been referred to a Special Committee consisting of the members of the Legislation and Metropolitan Public Libraries Committees.

Here it may be mentioned that a considerable number of the separate boards of Library Commissioners in London have ceased to exist, owing to the transfer of their powers, duties, and liabilities to the Vestries under the provisions of the Local Government Act, 1894.

The attention of the Council has been drawn to the desirability of taking steps to bring under the notice of the House of Lords Committee

on the Copyright Bills the importance of insisting upon the printing of the date of publication and date of securing copyright upon the title-pages of all works, and of its being made a condition before protection is afforded.

This and other matters connected with the subject on which the Association may properly make its views known, have been considered by the Council, who have passed and forwarded to the Committee this resolution :—

“That in the opinion of this Association no amendment of the law of copyright will be satisfactory which does not refuse copyright to any work (whether literary, musical, or artistic) published without a clear and prominent indication of the date of issue.”

Sir John Lubbock, whose interest in all that pertains to libraries is well known, has continued to give the benefit of his experience and most valuable advice in all legislative matters which have exercised the minds of the Council.

ADOPTIONS OF ACTS.

The Public Libraries Acts have been adopted in the following places :—

- | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|
| Colwall (Hereford). | Padiham. |
| Ince-in-Makerfield. | Plumstead. |
| Limehouse. | South Hornsey. |
| Londonderry. | Trumpington (Cambridge). |
| Louth. | |

This may not be and probably is not by any means a complete list, but, as pointed out in previous reports, there is no system of registration, and it is only upon stray newspaper paragraphs or isolated intimations that your Hon. Secretary can rely for information under this head. Notable in the movement for securing more public libraries in the Metropolis is the result of the sixth poll taken in the large and populous parish of St. Marylebone. Although again unsuccessful in securing a majority, the promoters, so far from being discouraged, are sanguine that, when the twelve months which must necessarily expire before another poll can be demanded, have elapsed, the scale will be turned and the rapidly declining opposition will be overcome. The voting in May last was—against the adoption, 4,617 ; for, 4,241 ; a difference of only 376 votes. The figures are worth quoting as showing the gradual but sure and satisfactory revulsion of public opinion on this subject of the establishment of public libraries in London.

METHODS OF ELECTION.

Some dissatisfaction having been expressed by certain members as to the method of electing the Council and officers, notwithstanding that the precedents of former years had been strictly followed, the Council felt it their duty to take all possible steps to remove any grievances, and, on the recommendation of a special committee appointed to go carefully into the whole matter, a new system has been inaugurated, and the recent election has been conducted under the rules and regulations adopted and communicated to every member. The Council hope that these regulations now in force will prove sufficient and satisfactory both to voters and candidates for office.

A new procedure in balloting for candidates for election as Fellows, Members, and Associates, was approved at the Monthly Meeting on May 9th.

BUSINESS AT MONTHLY MEETINGS.

At the Monthly Meeting of the Association, held April 21st, 1898, a resolution was passed as follows :—

“That it is desirable that the item ‘Questions’ be added to the Agenda
“of every monthly meeting.”

The Council have had this recommendation under their consideration ; they are doubtful whether such an entry upon the agenda for monthly meetings would come within the proceedings as prescribed by the Charter and Bye-laws, but, having regard to the importance of settling the question according to the wishes of the members at large, it has been decided to take their opinion at this meeting.¹

CLASSES AND EXAMINATIONS.

A separate Report, dealing with the educational work of the year, is presented by the Education Committee, and special attention may be drawn to the Report received from the North-Western Branch of the Association relating to its Summer School.

The last professional examination of the Association was held in December, 1897, when only two candidates sat, one of whom passed in Library Administration (portion of Section 3), and one in English Literary History (portion of Section 1) and in Library Legislation.

It may be frankly admitted that this dearth of candidates must be disappointing to the Examinations Committee—it is certainly so regarded by the Council ; but they hope that, as an outcome of the work and schemes of the Education Committee, a better attendance at future examinations will reward the Examinations Committee for their labours. A new list of text-books has been prepared, and it having been thought desirable to afford intending students time to study the works prescribed, it is proposed that the next Examination should not be held before December.

The Education Committee's Report, and the Report of the North-Western Branch are printed at the end of the Council's Report.

PUBLICATIONS.

For Report of Special Committee on Publications, see after the Education Committee's Report.

SUPERANNUATION.

Two Bills relating to the Superannuation of Librarians, amongst other Municipal Officers, have been introduced into Parliament this year. The Bill promoted by the Municipal Officers' Association has been supported by the Library Association.

The other, a Bill to amend the Superannuation Act [Metropolis], 1866, also affects the officers of some libraries, and is clearly open to amendment in one or more points. There is every evidence of steady progress in the direction of securing superannuation for all officers of local authorities.

SERVICES OF OFFICERS.

The retiring President, whose connection with the Association, extending over the whole period since its formation, is within the knowledge of every member, has during his year of office presided over all meetings,

¹ The meeting passed the following resolution :—“That questions, of which at least fourteen days' notice shall have been given to the Honorary Secretary, shall be added to the Agenda of each monthly meeting.”

and has firmly and wisely directed our affairs. The Council feel sure that the members will be pleased that Mr. Tedder has consented to resume his old position of Hon. Treasurer, and they have to express their appreciation of the manner in which Mr. Agar has discharged the duties of that office during the past twelve months.

The Hon. Solicitor has frequently given his opinion and advice, and has devoted much time to the elucidation of the various and intricate legal problems which have been submitted to him. His contributions to the "Legal Notes and Queries" in the pages of *THE LIBRARY* cannot fail to be of great practical value and assistance to library authorities and their officials.

The Council feel that all the members will share with them their extreme regret at the termination of Mr. MacAlister's services as Hon. Secretary. His labours for the good of the Association during the eleven years he has held office have been arduous and unceasing, and to him is largely due the high position which the Library Association has attained. His efforts towards securing the Charter of Incorporation may fitly be termed Mr. MacAlister's crowning service, one which has involved much thought and energy on his part, and this was recognised by the Special General Meeting held on May 9th last, when a hearty and unanimous vote of thanks was accorded to him. The Council have been concerned in the knowledge that Mr. MacAlister has lately suffered much illness, but they hope that the rest from the cares and duties, which his connection with the Association has entailed upon him, will be the means of securing to him renewed health and strength.

Mention must here be made of the assistance which has been given to the Council by Miss Hannam in the capacity of Assistant Hon. Secretary, whose increasing engagements compel her to resign that office. Mr. MacAlister has always found in her a loyal and zealous colleague.

The Council consider that the Association is to be congratulated upon the fact that Mr. Frank Pacy, Librarian of the Public Libraries of St. George, Hanover Square, and a London member of the Council, has consented to be elected Hon. Secretary. The admirable manner in which, at short notice, Mr. Pacy has collaborated with Mr. MacAlister in the work of arranging for this Annual Meeting, gives promise that he will be found to be a fit successor to our retiring Hon. Secretary.

In the opinion of the Council, the time has now arrived for the employment of a paid Assistant Secretary, and the terms of the appointment are under their consideration.

Acknowledgment is due to the Hon. Auditors for the careful performance of their tasks in vouching the accuracy of the accounts, and undertaking the responsibilities attaching to them as scrutineers for the election.

FINANCIAL.

The Council submit the accounts of the Association for the year 1897, certified by the Treasurer, with the report of the Auditors thereon.

The income and expenditure account (A) shows that the income for the year exceeded the expenditure by the sum of £3 14s. 7d., and from the balance sheet of liabilities and assets (B) it will be seen that the 31st December last there was an excess of liabilities over assets of £18 1s. 11d. The investment of £205 16s. 3d. (Consols) remained unaltered during the year.

The Treasurer has called attention to the fact that at the end of 1897, notwithstanding several applications made by circular in the course of the year, there was a sum of £37 2s. owing for subscriptions overdue, and he points out that if members who ordinarily leave their subscriptions

A: Income and Expenditure Account for the Year 1897.

INCOME.				EXPENDITURE.			
	£	s.	d.		£	s.	d.
Life Subscriptions.....			<i>nil.</i>	<i>The Library</i> supplied to Members and to Stock for the 12 months, including postage	195	1	7
Annual Subscriptions for the year 1897.....	482	6	0	Rent—Offices, Hanover Square.....	20	0	0
Dividends on £205 16s. 3d. Consols and Interest from Post Office Savings Bank.....	6	4	8	Annual Meeting—Hire of Meeting Room, Printing, Postages, Entertainment, &c.....	84	5	0
Sale of Publications in 1897	13	3	9	Summer School Committee's Expenses.....	25	1	8
<i>Note—Incorporation Fund:</i>				General Printing and Stationery.....	72	6	2
Donations received in 1897.....			<i>nil.</i>	Secretarial and Clerical Assistance.....	33	14	11
Expenditure in 1897, deducted from the Fund (see Balance Sheet)	£7	7	3	Incidental and Petty Expenses :—			
<i>Note—Legislation Fund:</i>				General Postages.....	32	14	7
Donations received in 1897.....	£10	5	0	Advertising	3	7	6
Expenditure in 1897.....	0	12	6	Hon. Secretary Postages, Telegrams, Carriage and Miscellaneous Expenses	25	0	0
Balance increase in the Fund in 1897 (see Balance Sheet)	9	12	6	Sundries	6	8	5
				<hr/>	67	10	6
				Balance, being surplus of Income over Expenditure for the year, carried to Balance Sheet	497	19	10
					3	14	7
				<hr/>	£501	14	5
					£501	14	5

T. J. AGAR, F.C.A., *Hon. Treasurer.*

B: Balance Sheet of Liabilities and Assets at 31st December, 1897.

LIABILITIES.		ASSETS.	
	£	s.	d.
Life-Members' Subscriptions required by the Constitution to be invested	221	11	0
Annual Subscriptions for 1898 received in advance	9	9	0
<i>Benevolent Fund:</i>			
Amount at credit 31st Dec., 1896	£15	15	3
Less Grant made in 1897	2	2	0
	13	13	3
<i>Incorporation Fund:</i>			
Donations received	86	16	0
Less Expenditure:—			
In 1896	£2	4	3
In 1897	7	7	3
	9	11	6
	77	4	6
<i>Legislation Fund:</i>			
Donations received in 1896 and 1897	25	5	0
Less Expenditure:—			
In 1896	£11	3	8
In 1897	0	12	6
	11	16	2
	13	8	10
Sundry Accounts owing by the Association as at 31st December, 1897, included in the Expenditure for the year, viz:—			
THE LIBRARY	£97	15	0
Printing and other Accounts	139	15	2
	237	10	2
	<u>£572</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>
Investment £205 16s. 3d. Consols 2½ per cent. at cost	208	9	3
Cash at Post Office Savings Bank	26	17	10
Cash at Bankers	160	17	10
Amount owing to the Association for Publications sold in 1897, included in the Income for that year	13	3	9
Estimated amount to be received for Subscriptions overdue	37	2	0
Stock of the Association's Publications at 31st December, 1897—estimated to realise	90	10	0
Stock of Stationery and Stamps at 31st December, 1897 ...	17	14	2
	554	14	10
Balance—being excess of Liabilities at 31st December, 1897 (including therein £221 11s.—Life-Members' Subscriptions)	18	1	11
viz:—			
Excess of Liabilities at 31st December, 1896	£21	16	6
Less Surplus of Income for the year 1897 as per Income and Expenditure Account	3	14	7
	<u>£18</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>11</u>
	<u>£527</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>9</u>

T. J. AGAR, F.C.A., Hon. Treasurer.

with the address of the Bishop of London, a syllabus, particulars as to the number of students attending the first session, and the libraries which they represented. The whole of this has been reprinted as a pamphlet and distributed amongst the students. Copies may be had from the Honorary Secretary of the Committee, at a nominal charge. The average number of students attending each meeting of the Cataloguing Class was 26; the Binding Class, 24; the Elementary Bibliography Class, 14; and the Historic Printing Class, 7. The smaller attendance at the two latter classes was due to the fact that fewer assistants in public libraries have their half-holidays on Thursdays (the days on which these classes were held) than on Wednesdays. The thanks of the Committee are due to the lecturers in the various subjects, for the time and thought expended on the classes; also to Mr. Zaehnsdorf, for his generous gift of 25 copies of his "Art of Bookbinding." At the end of the course, examination papers were set by the lecturers, who also marked the papers. It is a matter of regret to the Committee that more of the students did not present themselves at the examination. The pass list, issued under the direction of the Committee, was duplicated, and a copy was sent to each candidate. It was also printed in the August number of THE LIBRARY.¹

As the classes were not finished until the end of May, we recommended that no Summer School should be held this year, but asked for authority to arrange for a further series of lectures during the coming Autumn. This resolution was considered by you and approved, subject to our further report on details.

During the year Dr. Garnett and Mr. Guppy were co-opted to the Committee, which now consists of the following members:—Miss James, Miss Petherbridge, Messrs. E. M. Borrajo (Treasurer), Frank Campbell, W. E. Doubleday, R. Garnett, C.B. (*ex-officio*), H. Guppy, Herbert Jones, J. W. Knapman (*ex-officio*), J. Y. W. MacAlister (*ex-officio*), J. Macfarlane, J. Maclauchlan, W. May, J. J. Ogle, J. H. Quinn, Henry D. Roberts (Hon. Sec.), H. R. Tedder, C. Welch (Chairman), W. H. K. Wright. Since the last annual meeting of the Library Association to the end of July, 1898, twelve meetings of the Committee have been held, the attendance of the members being as follows:—Mr. Borrajo, 7; Miss James, 3; Mr. Jones, 6; Mr. Knapman, 1; Mr. MacAlister, 4; Mr. Macfarlane, 4; Miss Petherbridge, 5; Mr. Quinn, 5; Mr. Roberts, 12; Mr. Tedder, 6; Mr. Welch, 11; Mr. Wright, 1.

The Financial Statement as to the receipts and expenditure of the Committee is appended to this Report.

Signed on behalf of the Committee,

CHARLES WELCH, *Chairman*.

HENRY D. ROBERTS, *Hon. Secretary*.

At a meeting of the Education Committee, held on 5th August, 1898, it was unanimously resolved:—

"That the best thanks of the Education Committee be given to their Honorary Secretary, Mr. Henry D. Roberts, for the excellent and energetic way in which he has carried out the many details of the classes for the Technical Training of Librarians."

CHARLES WELCH, *Chairman*.

¹THE LIBRARY, vol. x., p. 239.

FINANCIAL STATEMENT.

RECEIPTS.		EXPENDITURE.	
	£ s. d.		£ s. d.
To Grant from Council.....	20 0 0	By Printing and Stationery	11 1 6
„ Students' Fees.....	19 14 0	„ Fees paid to Lecturers	14 14 0
„ Donation from Miss Petherbridge	3 3 0	„ Fee for Reporting Inaugural Meeting	4 0 0
„ Sale of fifteen copies of Zaehnsdorf's "Art of Bookbinding"	1 17 6	„ Miscellaneous Expenses in connection with Inaugural Meeting	1 13 0
„ Balance due to Hon. Treasurer	0 4 10	„ Hire of Room for Exam.	3 3 0
		„ Postage, Petty Disbursements, &c.	7 13 10
		„ Advertisements	2 14 0
	<hr/>		<hr/>
	£44 19 4		£44 19 4

EDWARD M. BORRAJO, *Hon. Treasurer.*

REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON PUBLICATIONS.¹*To the Council of the Library Association.*

The question of the Publications of the Library Association has long engaged the minds of the members of the Council as one demanding serious attention, and on May 18th, 1898, it was resolved :—

“That the whole question of the Publications of the Association be referred to a Committee to consider and report thereon to the Council.”

The Special Committee was composed of the following members:—Mr. H. R. Tedder (President of the Association), Mr. J. Y. W. MacAlister (Hon. Secretary of the Association, who resigned his seat on the Committee, as he was unable to attend any of its meetings), Mr. J. D. Brown, Mr. F. Campbell, Mr. W. E. Doubleday, Mr. H. Jones, Mr. T. Mason, Mr. F. Pacy, Mr. J. H. Quinn, and Mr. C. Welch, with Mr. F. Campbell as Secretary.

THE JOURNAL OF THE ASSOCIATION AND ITS EDITOR.

In the first place, your Committee consider it imperative that the Journal of the Association should be the official organ and property of the Library Association, and that there should be an Official Editor of the Journal and all other publications of the Association.

CONTENTS OF THE JOURNAL.

Your Committee are of opinion that the future Journal should contain :—

- (1) The Papers read at the meetings, which are to be printed subject to any necessary editorial revision.
- (2) Independent Articles of interest on subjects connected with the objects of the Association.
- (3) The Proceedings at the Meetings, Notices, and other business of the Association.

¹ This Report is here printed as adopted and amended by the Annual Meeting.

- (4) Items of Library and Bibliographical News.
- (5) Notices of Catalogues and new works connected with Library Economy and Bibliography, and
- (6) Correspondence.

REGULAR ISSUE.

And inasmuch as the real value of any Journal depends in great measure upon the regularity of its publication, your Committee are agreed that this is the next principle which should be kept in view.

PAPERS AND PROCEEDINGS OF THE ANNUAL MEETINGS.

Turning to the question of the Papers and Proceedings of the Annual Meetings, the Committee consider it highly desirable that they should be issued in a separate volume, as was done during the years 1878-84. The Committee are well aware of the reasons which led to the change from the original plan of publication, but consider that they do not affect the present situation, since special steps will now be taken to ensure the speedy issue of the annual volumes. Your Committee are further of opinion that the Reports of the Meetings for the nine years, 1886 to 1891 and 1895 to 1897, which have not yet been separately published, should be printed in the form of a separate volume at the earliest opportunity.

ASSISTANCE OF MEMBERS.

Your Committee submit these recommendations, after careful consideration, but they feel it should be urged upon the members that the success of the future Journal of the Association can only be attained by co-operation of the members, upon whom should be impressed the necessity of affording the Editor more active and permanent assistance.

ESTIMATE.

An Estimate of the probable annual cost of carrying out the recommendations herein submitted is appended, and the Committee think it well to state, for information and guidance, that the amount set aside in the past year's estimate of expenditure for the cost of THE LIBRARY was £200, this, of course, being exclusive of any charges that might be incurred for printing the proceedings at Annual Meetings.

TITLE.

Having considered various titles submitted to them, your Committee suggest that *The Library Association Record* would be a suitable title for the future Journal.¹

"THE LIBRARY."

In presenting this Report, your Committee wish to express their sense of the services rendered by the Hon. Secretary in his editing of THE LIBRARY. They feel that the arduous nature of the work is not generally realised by those who have not had the actual experience ;

¹ This recommendation was referred back to the Council with an instruction that they should endeavour to come to an arrangement with Mr. MacAlister for the transfer by to the Association of the copyright of THE LIBRARY.

indeed, so strong is the feeling, that the Committee consider that it would be wrong to ask the future Editor to undertake the work without affording him such definite clerical assistance as he should reasonably require.

HENRY R. TEDDER,
Chairman of Special Committee.

FRANK CAMPBELL,
Hon. Secretary.

August 2nd, 1898.

ESTIMATE OF PROBABLE ANNUAL COST OF FUTURE PUBLICATIONS,
IF THE RECOMMENDATIONS OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE
ARE ADOPTED.

750 copies Annual Volume, 300 pages (papers), in larger type, and 60 pages (proceedings) in smaller type (exclusive of binding) ...	£90	0	0
Paper cover for ditto, say ...	5	0	0
For Annual Volume... ..	£95	0	0
750 copies of Monthly Journal, of 24 pp., inclusive of cover, at £7 10s. per month ...	£90	0	0
Postages and Wrappers, at £2 15s. per month for 550 copies ...	33	0	0
Editorial Expenses		123	0
		25	0
		243	0
		Say	£250 0 0

NOTE.—The Committee have thought it safest to estimate the amount likely to be received from sales and advertisements at a low figure—say £25, but against this should be set the probable extra expenditure for corrections and contingencies, so it has been left out of account in arriving at the above total of £250.

REPORT OF THE NORTH-WESTERN BRANCH.

The only direction in which the Branch has taken any steps since the last Annual Meeting of the Association has been through the medium of the Summer School Committee, a summary of whose Report follows:—

The Second Meeting of the Summer School in connection with the North-Western Branch of the Library Association was held at the Liverpool Free Public Library, on June 8th, 9th, and 10th. The number of students who paid the entrance-fee of half-a-crown was twenty-five, of whom seventeen were in attendance, on the average, at each meeting. In addition, a considerable number of assistants in the Liverpool Public Libraries were able to attend one or more meetings as visitors. The following programme was successfully carried out:—

First Day.

Lecture—"Elementary Bibliography," by J. J. Ogle (Librarian, Bootle Public Library).

Lecture—"Aids to Readers," by Butler Wood (Librarian, Bradford Public Library).

Visit to the *Liverpool Mercury* Printing Works.

Second Day.

Lecture—"Catalogues and Cataloguing," by H. E. Curran (Liverpool Public Library).

Lecture—"Historic Bookbindings," by W. May (Chief Librarian, Birkenhead Free Public Library).

Demonstration of Practical Bookbinding, by J. Fazakerley (Book-binder, Liverpool).

Third Day.

Lecture—"Library Arrangement," by P. Cowell (Chief Librarian, Liverpool Public Libraries).

Lecture—"Early Printing," by E. Gordon Duff (Librarian, The John Ryland's Library, Manchester).

Visit to the Branch Free Libraries of Liverpool.

As before, the programme was arranged to close about 4.30 each day, so that students might, if required, reach home each evening in time for evening duty.

Students were requested to send in reports of the proceedings, and two prizes of 21s. and 10s. 6d. were offered by Mr. Frank J. Leslie (Chairman of Sub-Committee, Liverpool Public Libraries) to the students sending in the best papers. Fourteen reports were received; and were found to be of better quality on the whole than those sent in at the previous meeting. The prizes were awarded as follows:—

(1) Alfred Hair (Assistant, Tynemouth Public Library).

(2) Alfred H. Edwards (Assistant, South Lending Library, Liverpool Public Libraries).

The Committee records its indebtedness to Mr. F. J. Leslie for offering prizes; and to the Liverpool Public Libraries Committee, to Mr. Cowell and his staff for their hospitality, and reports with pleasure that the other expenses of the School were covered by the entrance-fees of the students, there being a balance of a few shillings in hand.

The membership of the Branch, comprising those members of the Association who reside in Lancashire and Cheshire, now numbers 107. The officers remain as last reported, viz.:—Chairman, Alderman H. Rawson (Past President of the Library Association); Hon. Secretary, Charles Madeley (Municipal Museum, Warrington); Hon. Secretary for Summer School, G. T. Shaw (The Athenæum, Liverpool).

CHARLES MADELEY,
Hon. Secretary.

August 15th, 1898.

REPORT OF THE NORTH-MIDLAND LIBRARY ASSOCIATION.

There is nothing remarkable to report in the proceedings of the North-Midland Library Association since the last annual meeting of the Library Association.

There have been a few changes in numerical strength. The North-Midland Library Association has a membership of about fifty. The members consist of librarians, members of library committees, book-sellers, bookbinders, book-collectors, and book-lovers.

The libraries represented are:—Rate-supported libraries, proprietary libraries, mechanics' institution libraries, a railway institute library, and an endowed library. The President is the librarian of a mechanics' institution; the Vice-President, the librarian of a railway institution;

the Honorary Secretary, the librarian of free public libraries; the Treasurer is a sub-librarian of a rate-supported library; and the Auditor is librarian of an endowed library.

Since the annual meeting held at Nottingham, in October last, there has only been one regular meeting of this local library association. This was at Leicester, on March 10th. At that meeting an excellent paper on the London meeting of the Library Association was read by Mr. Henry Bond, librarian of the Lincoln Public Library. This was followed by a paper on "A Local Anonymous Author," by Mr. William Moore, librarian of the Bromley House (Proprietary) Library. The latter paper, after revision and extension, was printed in a Nottingham newspaper, and created considerable interest. Mr. Kirk, senior assistant in the Nottingham Free Public Reference Library, contributed a note on the work of the Emigrants' Information Office, at my suggestion. Mr. Russell, a well-known Leicester bookbinder, and one of our members, gave an address on "Qualities of Papers now used in Making Books," and illustrated it by means of specimens of good, indifferent, and bad papers.

Since the Leicester meeting most of the members of the North-Midland Library Association, with the addition of some members of the Nottingham Public Libraries staff, met on the Lincolnshire coast, at Sutton-on-Sea and Mablethorpe, where informal discussions on open access to the seaside and on other non-professional subjects were well and profitably discussed.

The annual meeting will be held in Nottingham during the famous Goose Fair week.

J. POTTER BRISCOE,
Hon. Secretary.

August 22nd, 1898.

