Birmingham and District Library Association.

MEETING AT WALSALL.

THIS Association paid its first visit to Walsall on Friday, April 9th, 1897. During the afternoon the members were conducted over the extensive leather works of Messrs. Holden, and were particularly interested in inspecting the various processes in the preparation of leather for binding books, and in examining the various classes of leather used for this purpose. They were afterwards entertained to tea at the Victoria Hotel by Councillor Walter Hughes (Chairman of the Public Library Committee), and after inspecting the library and its reading rooms, and the methods in use therein, held their meeting in the Art Gallery.

Among those present were Messrs. J. Elliot, chief librarian, Wolverhampton (vice-president), R. K. Dent, Aston Manor (secretary), W. Downing (treasurer), A. Morgan (Walsall), G. H. Burton (Oldbury), T. Stanley (Wednesbury), D. Dickenson (West Bromwich), Gulliman (Smethwick), Roberts (Handsworth), Powell, Hancox, James, and Thacker (Birmingham), Chell (Wolverhampton), &c.

Councillor Walter Hughes presided over the meeting (in the absence of the president, Mr. A. C. Shaw, of Birmingham), and after some preliminaries Mr. R. K. Dent read a paper on "The New Cataloguer and Some of His Ways."

A discussion ensued on the paper, in which the Chairman (Councillor Hughes) joined, and all present united in commending the admirable new catalogue of the Walsall Library. A copy was presented to each of the members present, and also a portfolio of views of Walsall, prepared some time ago on the occasion of the visit of the Institute of Journalists.

A vote of thanks was accorded to Councillor Hughes for his generous hospitality and his kind reception of the Association, on the motion of Mr. J. Elliot, seconded by Mr. Dickenson; and a similar vote of thanks to Mr. Morgan, the librarian, for undertaking the arrangements of the meeting, was accorded on the motion of Mr. R. K. Dent, and with this the proceedings closed.

Correspondence.

To the Editor of THE LIBRARY.

CHARGE FOR COLLECTION OF LIBRARY RATE.

SIR,—In answer to an appeal from the Public Library Committee against the deduction of 5 per cent. from the library income for cost of its collection, the Borough Finance Committee resolved that in future no deduction whatever should be made for this purpose.

Faithfully yours,

SEPT. A. PITT.

Public Library, South Shields.