Thirteenth Annual Report of the Board of Managers of the Franklin Institute.

In pursuance of the duty imposed by the constitution, the Board of Managers lay before the society a succinct history of the transactions of the past year, and an exposition of the condition and prospects of the Institute.

From the foundation of the association, a leading object with its managers has been to provide sound instruction, by means of popular lectures upon scientific subjects. Of these, Chemistry and Natural Philosophy have claimed primary consideration, as being most intimately connected with mechanic arts, and the ordinary pursuits of life. For some years past, chemical knowledge has been imparted to the class by Dr. J. K. Mitchell, in a manner that has won for him the affection and respect of all his hearers; and the science of Natural Philosophy has been illustrated by Prof. W. R. Johnson, with the assiduity and minuteness of research which form prominent features of his character. To these gentlemen the thanks of the Board are due, and are thus publicly tendered, for their exertions in the cause of education. These lectures occupy two evenings in each week; and a third has heretofore been appropriated to the delivery of volunteer lectures, upon such subjects as are calculated to promote the great objects of the Institute. During the present season, the Committee on Instruction have been able to secure for the class regular lectures, three times a week, by engaging the services of Mr. J. C. Booth for a course upon arts and manufactures, from which the members are now deriving a fund of useful and entertaining knowledge. The drawing school, under the superintendence of Messrs. William Mason and John McClure, is fulfilling the most sanguine expectations to which its success in former years had given rise; the number of pupils is seventy-five; and several applicants have been excluded by the limited extent of our accommodations.

Second only to the lectures and schools as the means of disseminating knowledge, is the Journal of the Institute,—a work which bears ample evidence of the talents and industry devoted to its pages. Although the subscription list has been considerably augmented in the past year, the Board feel constrained to state that it does not yet experience a patronage by any means commensurate with its merits. The volume just completed contains a large amount of original matter, tending directly to the improvement of some important branch of industry, or highly interesting to the scientific and general reader.

It may perhaps be deemed worthy of notice, that since the destruction of the Patent Office, the only authentic records of American patents, other than those in possession of the patentees themselves, are to be found in the volumes of this Journal.

The Library is steadily increasing in extent, and bids fair, in the course of a few years, to comprise most of the standard works connected with the arts and sciences.

The whole number of volumes now amounts to 1700; of which have been added during the past year, by purchase 84, in exchange for the Journal 64, and 51 were received as donations.

Immediately connected with the library is the reading room, and the Board have observed with much gratification that a daily increasing number of members avail themselves of the intellectual repast here provided for the student, the mechanic, and the man of business.

The number of newspapers now received is 39, of journals devoted to

science and mechanics 44, of which 8 are from Paris, 17 from London, and 19 published in the United States.

In the Cabinets of Models and Minerals, there has not been any change during the past year requiring special notice. Some donations have been added to both collections, and they have been reduced to systematic arrangement by the committees to whom they are respectively entrusted.

The Monthly Conversation Meetings are regularly maintained, and continue to be attended with considerable interest; but it is believed that their beneficial influence might be increased, if members would more generally bear them in mind, whenever an opportunity is presented of bringing forward specimens of ingenuity or skill. Although these meetings are placed under the superintendence of a committee of the Board, it was not intended, nor could it be expected, that they should be sustained by the efforts of that committee alone; and it is confidently hoped that members will feel it incumbent upon them not to suffer this excellent feature of the Institute to be lost for want of proper exertion.

The labours of the Committee on Science and the Arts have been prosecuted with the same assiduity and success as marked their progress during the two previous years.

The Committee has been deprived of the services of one of its most valued members, by the mission to Europe of its late chairman, A. D. Bache, Esq. The chair thus vacated has been filled by the election of Dr. R. M. Patterson, a gentleman whose accomplishments and love of science are sufficiently well known, both at home and abroad, to secure for the body over which he presides, a continuance of that confidence which the public have heretofore reposed in its decisions.

The number of subjects brought under the notice of the committee during the year, is 43; lying over from last year, 7. Of these, 41 have been disposed of by report, or otherwise, and 9 remain under consideration. Sixteen members have recorded their names on the committee this year, and one member, Mr. Benjamin Say, has deceased, leaving the present number 81.

In conformity with a regulation adopted some years back, the Institute has held no exhibition of domestic manufactures during the past season, but opportunity has been afforded to manufacturers for a display of the products of their skill at the conversation meetings.

In accordance with the same regulation, an exhibition should be held in the ensuing autumn; and the subject is recommended to the next Board, as claiming their early and serious deliberation.

The Committee on the Explosions of Steam Boilers having at length concluded that branch of their labours which relates to the strength of materials, the results will shortly be laid before the public on the pages of the Journal. The report comprises a large number of tables, involving calculations of a complicated nature, and forms, in conjunction with the parts already published, a fund of practical information, founded on elaborate research, such as is rarely to be found in any of the periodicals of the day.

In the past year, 171 gentlemen have been elected members of the Institute, 18 have become life members, 78 have resigned, and 10 deceased; the whole number of members is now 2004. The names of gentlemen who have become life members are as follows: Messrs. Charles Alexander, Alex. Dallas Bache, Wm. A. Blanchard, Caleb Clothier, Eli Dillio, John F. Frazier, A. B. Hutton, John Horton, L. Johnson, Warner Justice, Joseph S. Lovering, Wm. Mason, Joseph S. Newbold, Abraham R. Perkins, Geo. Parkinson, Joseph Price, Jr., Thomas Ryan, and John M. Scott.

The Treasurer's report is herewith submitted.

MATTHIAS W. BALDWIN, *Chairman.*

WILLIAM HAMILTON, *Actuary.*

Minutes of the Board of Managers.

At a meeting of the Board of Managers, held at the Hall of the Institute, January 25th, 1837,

Mr. JOHN STRUTHERS was elected Chairman of the Board; and

MESSRS. FREDERICK FRALEY, and JOHN C. CRESSON, Curators for the ensuing year.

And at a meeting of the Board, held February 15th, the Chairman nominated the Standing Committees, agreeably to the by-laws. On motion, Mr. JOHN STRUTHERS was added to the Committee on the Cabinet of Models, and Prof. HENRY D. ROGERS, and MESSRS. JAMES C. BOOTH and JACOB PEARCE to the Committee on the Cabinet of Minerals; when the committees were appointed as follows:—

On the Library.

Henry Troth,
Isaac Hays, M. D.
Thomas Fletcher,
Isaac P. Morris,

Earl Shinn,
J. Henry Bulkley,
Alexander M'Clurg.

On the Cabinet of Models.

John Agnew,
John Struthers,
Benjamin Reeves,
Joseph S. Walter, Jr.

Isaac P. Morris,
Andrew M. Eastwick,
John S. Warner,
William Hart Carr.

On the Cabinet of Minerals.

Isaiah Lukens,
Samuel Hufty,
Abraham Miller,
William H. Keating,

Charles B. Trego,
Henry D. Rogers,
James C. Booth,
Jacob Pearce.

On Publications.

Isaac Hays, M. D.
Samuel V. Merrick,
Matthias W. Baldwin,

Rufus Tyler,
John C. Cresson.

On Premiums and Exhibitions.

John C. Cresson,
William H. Keating,
Alexander Ferguson,
Thomas Fletcher,

Frederick Fraley,
Isaac B. Garrigues,
Alexander M'Clurg,
John S. Warner.

On Instruction.

Frederick Fraley,
John Wiegand,
James M. Linnard,
Joseph S. Walter, Jr.

Isaac P. Morris,
Earl Shinn,
Charles B. Trego.