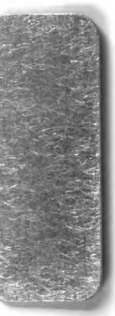


REPORT

OF THE STATE OF

LITERARY, SCIENTIFIC, AND

MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS

IN ENGLAND.

WITH A LIST OF SUCH INSTITUTIONS,

AND

A LIST OF LECTURERS.

PUBLISHED BY

THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,

59, LINCOLN'S-INN FIELDS, LONDON.

1841.

UNDER THE SUPERINTENDENCE

OF

THE SOCIETY FOR THE DIFFUSION OF USEFUL KNOWLEDGE,

AND

THE LONDON ASSOCIATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR ADULT INSTRUCTION.

London: Printed by William Clowes and Sons, Stamford Street.

INTRODUCTION.

In compliance with the request of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, most of the Mechanics' Institutions and similar Bodies in England and some in Scotland have sent their annual reports to the Society; and it is the object of the following pages to give, as far as these returns allow, a digested account of what has been accomplished by these Institutions, to exhibit their present condition, and to afford such suggestions as a general review of the subject may present for increasing their efficiency.

In reducing into the shape of tables the information concerning each Institution, it has been found necessary to dispense with many details, owing partly to their cumbrous extent; and probably many errors and omissions may be, nevertheless, observed in the tables. The variety of forms adopted by institutions for their annual reports, renders such imperfections almost inevitable.

THOS. COATES.

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MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS.

CHAPTER I.

MEANS ADOPTED TO ESTABLISH INTERCOURSE AMONG INSTITUTIONS.

THE Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge in December, 1835, forwarded a circular to the principal towns in the kingdom, requesting replies to certain queries respecting the existence and state of Mechanics' and similar Institutions. The Returns thus collected disclosed a number of facts, and supplied information enough, with matter collected from other sources, to enable the Society to publish, in 1839, the "Manual for Mechanics' Institutions." One topic much insisted on in that work, and illustrated by an extract from a paper of Mr. Wyse (published by the Central Society of Education), referred to the establishment of some Central Society, through whose agency a general correspondence among Institutions should be maintained, for the diffusion of information, and, if it should be found practicable, for other pur-

poses—as, for instance, the exchange of the duplicates of books, specimens of natural history, &c.; the acquisition of a common stock of apparatus; the formation of joint engagements with lecturers; and, in short, for co-operation in whatever mode and to whatever extent might be deemed beneficial.

In the interval between the circulation of the queries in 1835, and the publication of the Manual, a plan suggested by Mr. E. Baines, jun., of Leeds, had been successfully adopted in the formation of a Union, for certain general purposes, of the Institutions in the West Riding of Yorkshire. This union still subsists under the able management of Mr. Plint, of Leeds. The reports of that Association will be referred to hereafter: they are all drawn up with great care, and usually indicate many of the causes of success and failure in the Institutions united together in that district. They have, above all, the great merit of not putting a false colouring on the state of the associated institutions, or exaggerating the benefits of the association itself.

At the beginning of August, 1839, in pursuance of a plan determined on in May, the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge issued a circular, signed by Lord Brougham, Chairman,

inviting the several Institutions in London and its neighbourhood to delegate one or two members of their respective committees to attend a meeting at the Society's rooms on the 7th of August, 1839. The circular stated that—

"It is the wish of the committee of the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge to establish a correspondence among the various Mechanics' Institutions in England, and between them and this society; so that neighbouring institutions, by dividing the travelling expenses of lecturers among them, may diminish the cost of each course of lectures; that one set of apparatus, or collection of models, or of specimens of natural history, or even one set of books, may serve for many institutions; and that local collections and duplicates from libraries and museums may be interchanged all over the country.

"The committee likewise desire by an annual report, and by correspondence and interchange of suggestions and advice, to make the experience of one institution serve as a guide to others; and they hope by degrees to be able to assist in supplying the wants of the various Institutions, whether these relate to teachers, to books, or to apparatus.

"With this view they are desirous of receiving from all Mechanics' Institutions and similar bodies annually in the month of June, such a report of their proceedings as will enable the committee to give a general annual report of the progress of adult education in Great Britain: and they entertain no doubt that great benefit will result from

their labours, if they are seconded by the cordial assistance of the several institutions throughout the kingdom."

At the meeting, which was attended by members from twelve Institutions, Lord Brougham in the chair—

"The chairman stated the objects which the Society have in view in calling the meeting.

"Upon the motion of Dr. Birkbeck it was resolved,

"That it is expedient to establish a correspondence among the institutions of Great Britain for adult education, especially of the working classes.

"That such correspondence will be rendered more easy by the intervention of some body in London.

"That it is expedient to form a provisional committee to consider the means of establishing a correspondence among such institutions in London and its neighbourhood, and between them and the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.

"That the limits of the proposed association be a circle of fifteen miles from Charing Cross.

"That five institutions be now elected by ballot from among those which are represented at this meeting; each of which institutions shall send one member to meet the sub-committee of the Society, and to prepare a draft or a plan for the proposed association."

The following rules were subsequently adopted for the constitution and government of the Asso-

ciation, of which Dr. Birkbeck consented to become the first President:—

"1. The object of this association is to promote the foundation, and to facilitate the labours of institutions of every description for adult instruction; to collect and diffuse information concerning such institutions; and to point out the causes which principally interfere with their success.

"2. This association is intended to consist of the members of all institutions for general adult instruction, within a circle of fifteen miles from Charing Cross; provided that such institutions have a library, or reading room, or lectures, and are supported wholly or in part by voluntary subscriptions of the members.

"3. The association shall comprise the institutions hereunder named:"—

[Twenty institutions are then designated.]

"4. Any institution within the before-named circle hereafter desirous of joining the association, shall intimate its wish to the secretary of the association, and shall be proposed by the secretary for election at the next meeting but one of the general committee after such intimation shall have been received by him; notice being given in the meeting next after the intimation. But any of the institutions hereunder named may join the association by stating in writing to the secretary of the association before the 1st of January, 1840, their concurrence in the plan."

[The names of fifteen institutions are given as those to whom this rule applies.]

GOVERNMENT.

" 5. The general committee shall consist of one representative of each institution in the association. To the general committee shall be entrusted the management of the affairs of the association, and the advancement of its objects.

" 6. The general committee shall meet on the first Monday in every month at half-past six o'clock in the evening, for general business.

" 7. The general committee shall have the power to appoint a sub-committee of five persons; and to make such regulations for the meetings and business of such sub-committee as they shall think fit.

" 8. There shall be an annual general meeting of all the members of the institutions in the association, in order to receive a report of the affairs of the association. Such meeting shall be held on the first Wednesday of November in every year, the first meeting being in 1840.

" 9. There shall be a president, two vice-presidents, and a secretary of the association, to be elected annually by the general committee. These shall become by virtue of their offices members of the general committee.

" 10. The president or a vice-president shall preside over all meetings at which either is present; and shall have a casting vote. If neither is present a chairman shall be elected out of the members present.

" *Note.*—The Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge offer their rooms for the meetings of the committees of the association until the 1st of November,

1840: and they also offer to bear the necessary expenses of the association in the mean time.

"GEORGE BIRKBECK.

"THOMAS COATES, Hon. Sec.

"59, Lincoln's Inn Fields,
November 6th, 1839."

Concurrently with the first proceeding taken for the formation of the London Association of Institutions, the Society deputed its Secretary to visit a number of Institutions, for the purpose of forming them into associations, and of establishing intercourse between them and the London Association, which, as far as respected correspondence, was to be deemed the central body. As Mr. Coates's Report describes an important step in the uniting of Institutions, beside containing suggestions which may deserve consideration, it is inserted at length:—

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY'S CIRCUIT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ESTABLISHING INTERCOURSE AMONG MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS, AND BETWEEN THEM AND THE SOCIETY.

[See Minutes 12th June, 8th July, and 5th August.]

"On the 24th of August a circular dated in that month was put into my hands by Dr. Birkbeck, signed by Mr. H. Dircks, of Liverpool, inviting delegates from the various Literary and Mechanics' Institutions in England

to meet at Birmingham on the 28th August (during the meeting of the British Association there), for the purpose of establishing some union among those institutions. The chairman immediately wrote to Mr. Dircks informing him of the steps taken by the Society for this purpose, and the meeting was deferred until the 29th to enable me to attend it.

"About 40 gentlemen from various parts of the country were present, and Mr. Dircks having very readily relinquished to the Society the task which he had undertaken, in common with it and in ignorance of its proceedings, I explained to the meeting the plans of the Society, and the means proposed for effecting them.

"The opinion of the meeting was, I believe, unanimous in favour of combining neighbouring institutions for the attainment of their common objects by some systematic intercourse, without however interfering with their internal affairs; but the proposal to extend that intercourse to some one body in London, to which all the institutions should be able to resort for advice and assistance, and to whom all should periodically send reports, was not so immediately acceded to. As but few of the persons present were authorized to act on behalf of their institutions, the meeting did not adopt any resolution; but most of them individually gave me their names, and offered me their assistance in their respective neighbourhoods.

"Finding persons too much occupied at Birmingham during the meeting of the British Association to attend to the subject, I proceeded upon my circuit, having first sent to the institutions which I was about to visit a

circular explaining the intentions of the society, with a request that a committee might be summoned to meet me, and to consider the matters mentioned in the circular. At Rugby I learnt that, notwithstanding the support which the institution there had derived from Dr. Arnold and other gentlemen in the neighbourhood, it had ceased to exist; and the same was the case at Loughborough and Dudley, although I had been recommended at Leicester to visit the institution at the former place, and at Worcester and Birmingham to visit Dudley—so little is known even in their neighbourhoods of the state of these institutions.

"At Northampton, Leicester, Nottingham, Derby, Newark, and Grantham, the annexed resolutions (A) were adopted by the committees with more or less of discussion; subject, however, at the two last places, to the approval of a general meeting of the members.

"Whilst I was at Derby an exhibition for the benefit of the institution, of works of art, of models, and of specimens of natural history, was just closing. The admission-fee was sixpence for each person, excepting the families of the members, who only paid threepence for each person; on the Monday of my visit more than 2000 persons had passed through the room, and the gross receipts during the fourteen weeks of the exhibition exceed 210*l*. Not the smallest damage, excepting by accident, had been done to any object exhibited.

"At Lincoln, where there is a very flourishing and well-conducted institution, called the Lincoln and Lincolnshire Mechanics' Institution, I was less successful; not from any objection on the part of its committee to

the principle, but because it is the plan of that institution to unite to itself as branches all 'societies formed within the county with the same object and upon the same principle; to give to such branch societies the occasional use of apparatus or books for lectures or experiments, and to make terms with them for the joint employment of lecturers,' their members being admitted gratuitously during a temporary residence in Lincoln as members of the chief society. It was natural that in these circumstances the Lincoln institution should object to form part of an association out of the county; but the committee, when I met them, appointed a sub-committee to give effect to the rules which I have mentioned.

"I will not trouble the committee with the detail of my proceedings, but I have added to this report a list of the institutions visited by me.* After having formed an association of the above institutions, with Nottingham as the centre, I visited the Mechanics' Institution and Athenæum at Birmingham, as well as the institutions at Coventry, Leamington, Wolverhampton, Walsall, Stourbridge, Kidderminster, and Worcester, and succeeded in forming them into an association with Birmingham as its centre, which will probably comprise also Bilston, Evesham, Banbury, Kettering, and Wellingborough.

"I then went to Stafford, where the institution can scarcely be said to exist; met the committee of an excellent institution at Hanley, in the Potteries; and having gone to Newcastle-under-Lyne, I proceeded to Man-

* For a list of the Associations now in operation see Appendix I.

chester, which abounds in flourishing societies for adult instruction:—viz.

"1. The Royal Manchester Society.

"2. The Manchester Athenæum, for which a very handsome building is erecting, and which will unite with lectures and classes and collections, the accommodation of a club. It has on an average of the quarters more than 1000 members; the subscription is 1*l.* 10*s.* per annum, and an extra price is paid for each class.

"3. The Mechanics' Institution, which also has a large building, and ample collections of books and of objects of art and of natural history: the annual subscription is 1*l.*, which gives admission to many of the classes.

"But as these institutions are beyond the reach of the great manufacturing population of Manchester, there have been established, with much success, others where the subscription is only 10*s.* a-year, and where the artisan is induced to resort not only by lectures, and classes, and a reading-room, but by music and other means of recreation: these are,

"4. The Salford Lyceum,

"5. The Miles Platting Mechanics' Institution,

"6. The Ancoats-street Lyceum, and

"7. The Chorlton Lyceum.

"At the Salford Lyceum I attended two successive evenings: on the first a lecture upon astronomy was delivered by Dr. Nichol of Glasgow, to about 250 artisans (members of the Lyceum) in their working-jackets, many of them mere boys, and I never saw a more atten-

tive audience; and on the second evening I was present at a ball in the Town Hall of Salford, composed of the members of the Lyceum and their families.

"The Manchester Athenæum and Mechanics' Institution did not accede to the Society's plan: their opulence enables these two bodies to obtain all the advantages which they desire, and they did not then perceive that their countenance would be valuable to the association: I hope, however, that they will ultimately be induced to join it. So too with the Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, I was entirely without success. At Warrington the institution has decayed, notwithstanding the efforts of the more wealthy classes. At Preston there is a flourishing and well-conducted institution; I found in its museum a large, and I was told complete, collection of insects, made by a working man of the town during his walks.

"As neither my time nor the funds which the committee had been good enough to place at my disposal would enable me to visit any other places than the 26 which I have mentioned, I addressed a circular to the institutions in the neighbourhood of Manchester, begging them to send one or two of their members to meet me there on the 10th of October, to consider of the propriety of forming an association. Deputies from 11 places and 15 institutions assembled and unanimously acceded to the plan, expressing (as indeed every institution and meeting had done) their gratitude to the Society for its interference in this matter.

"This course I also adopted with 15 institutions in the neighbourhood of Bristol, which I invited to send deputies to meet me on the 23rd of October, at the Mechanics'

Institution in that city: and the result is, I hope, an association of all those institutions, with Bristol for its centre. Unfortunately most of them are so poor as to make the expense of sending one of their members to a distance burthensome to them; but this circumstance renders their union the more needful. At the request of the committees I attended the first meetings of the associations at Birmingham, Nottingham, and Manchester. At Leeds a union has been formed, since 1837, of the institutions in the manufacturing towns in Yorkshire; it is to be hoped that the towns in Lincolnshire will likewise be practically united for this purpose; since my return to London I have been invited to form an association in Sussex and the South of Kent;* in London and its neighbourhood 20 institutions are already associated, and probably 13 more will be so through the intervention of the society; and I believe that, if no extravagant expectations are raised as to the effect to be immediately produced by these unions, they will be permanent, and will tend to give efficiency to the institutions by making the experience of each common to all, by facilitating the labours and diminishing the expense of lecturers, by circulating apparatus, of which scarcely any institution possesses even the most necessary objects; perhaps too by circulating books (although this proposal meets with very little approbation) and by interchanging collections illustrative of the industry or the natural productions of the respective places.

"My visits to the institutions convinced me that they are

* This association has since been formed, with Lewes for its centre.

not in so prosperous a state as might be desired, whether with regard to their finances and collections or to the class of persons by whom they are frequented. The small interest taken in them by the artisans in most towns may be attributed to many causes; foremost among which are doubtless the want, in many cases, of all preliminary education among the working classes, the insufficiency of the instruction obtained in their schools, and the early age at which they are obliged to contribute by their labour to their own maintenance. It may be doubted too whether lectures are well adapted for conveying much instruction unless followed by examinations; indeed I uniformly heard it complained of by committees, that, after the first novelty of listening to lectures is over, the workmen can rarely be induced to attend them.

"I believe that the exclusion of all discussion or even instruction concerning Politics and Political Economy is another cause of the indifference of artisans towards Mechanics' Institutions. These matters cannot be excluded from the mind of the workman, even if they ought to be excluded; and in order to discuss them he resorts to the tavern or to political clubs, where his prejudices, far from being removed by fair inquiry or instruction, are aggravated by intercourse with those whose society he selects because they think as he thinks.

"So again, the absence hitherto of amusements has deterred men who have been labouring ten or twelve hours at some sedentary occupation from resorting to Mechanics' institutions. Fortunately, music is now pretty generally introduced into them, and evening meetings of the members and their families are becoming more frequent.

The working man, who finds these innocent and rational amusements placed within his reach by the Mechanics' Institution, has a new inducement to resort to it, and to avail himself of the means of intellectual improvement which it affords.

"It is worthy of remark that the clergy of the Established Church have very recently been occupying themselves in founding Mechanics' Institutions under various names in towns where others already existed; and with the express condition in some of them that all the office-bearers shall be members of the Established Church, and that instruction in the evidences of the Christian faith, as professed by the Church of England, shall be given in the institution. As these societies depend principally upon honorary members for support, the subscription to them is usually very small (only one shilling a quarter), and the workmen have all the advantages of a Mechanics' Institution at a very cheap rate. But, on the other hand, this rivalry divides the small funds, which united are seldom adequate to the efficient support of a single institution; by placing a badge on all who are not members of the Established Church it opens a fresh field for those sectarian and political animosities which have already a sufficiently wide range; and it gives the workman a distrust of institutions which seem founded by the opulent classes, or at least are used by them, less for his benefit than for the purpose of obtaining a triumph over those who differ from them in religious or political matters.

"THOMAS COATES,

"*Nov. 13th*, 1839." "Secretary.

(A.)—Resolutions Adopted by the Individual Institutions.

1. That it is expedient to establish intercourse among Literary and Scientific and Mechanics' Institutions in neighbouring towns, and between them and some body in London.

2. That this Institution will endeavour to establish such an intercourse with the institutions, of which shall be the centre.

3. That in order to maintain such intercourse, this institution will depute one or two members of its committee to meet members of the committees of the above-named institutions every six months, to confer concerning the interests of the institutions, the courses of lectures to be delivered during the ensuing six months, and the interchange of apparatus and other collections.

4. That this institution will send annually in the month of February, to the Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, a Report, containing the following particulars; so that the Society may give yearly a general view of the progress of adult education in Great Britain:—

The number of their members, and a classification of them, according to their occupations and ages.

Amount of their subscriptions.

State of their finances.

Occasion of debt, if any, and cause of its accumulation—if they see no objection to state this.

Lectures delivered during the year, and how lecturers are provided and paid.

Attendance on each course; and what fees are taken for each course.
Whether followed by examinations.
Classes during the year.
How attended.
What number of volumes added to their library, and what duplicates in it.
What number lent out to their members.
What objects added to their museum, and what duplicates in it.
What objects added to their model-room, and what duplicates in it.
Whether there have been exhibitions.

The machinery for intercourse among Institutions was thus, if not perfected, at least capable of being put in operation; and in fact Associations were in consequence formed in London, in Birmingham for the Midland counties, Manchester for Lancashire, Bristol for the West of England, and Lewes for Sussex; that at Leeds for the West Riding of Yorkshire has already been mentioned. Even if these Associations have not yet produced any favourable effects upon the internal prosperity of the individual Institutions, it should be borne in mind that such prosperity must arise principally from the internal management of the Institutions themselves, and their adaptation to the wants of those for whom they are founded. By facilitating intercourse among their managers,

each Institution may avail itself of the experience of the rest, and by degrees may improve its management, and so promote its prosperity. He who expects any sudden success for Mechanics' Institutions, notwithstanding the present circumstances of the working classes in this country,—their want of preliminary education, their privation of those means of recreation which are afforded in most other countries, and which tend to elevate whilst they refresh the mind,—can have little experience of the difficulties with which the establishment and maintenance of these Institutions are surrounded.

CHAPTER II.

ATTENDANCE AT MECHANICS' INSTITUTIONS—EVILS OF EXCLUDING FROM THEM INSTRUCTION IN POLITICS AND POLITICAL ECONOMY—MODE OF RAISING THE FUNDS—CLUBHOUSES—ADMISSION OF FEMALE MEMBERS—OPENING OF READING-ROOMS ON SUNDAY—LYCEUMS.

TABLE showing the Proportion which the Members bear to the Towns where the Institutions are established.

PLACE.	Mechanics.	Others.	Total.	Of whom the following are under 21.	Population of Town.
Alnwick	71	80	151	52	6,888
Ashton and Dukinfield	105	86	191	36	33,000
Bath	75	325	400	131	50,800
Birmingham	405	80	485	240	147,000
Bolton	136	144	111	. .	53,000
Bridport	20	91	280	. .	4,250
Bristol	50	172	222	36	103,886
Bury, Lancashire	43	85	128	34	20,000
Chester	90	110	200	. .	21,363
Chichester	80	270	350	110	8,270
Clickheaton	20	44	64	25	
Coventry	45	236	281	64	27,070
Darwen	128	42	170	50	
Devizes	94	87	181	42	4,562
Dunbar	40	89	129	. .	4,735
Dundee, chiefly mechanics	640	30	670	. .	45,355
Dunse	60	24	84	14	3,500
Evesham	70	60	130	. .	3991
Gateshead	72	193	265	. .	20,000
Halifax	100	305	405	40	34,500
Hastings	60	168	228	22	10,000
Henham	30	90	120	58	6,000
Hereford	100	167	267	. .	10,200
Leamington	64	. .	64	40	6,209

TABLE showing the Proportion, &c.—*continued.*

PLACE.	Mechanics.	Others.	Total.	Of whom the following are under 21.	Population of Town.
Lewes	103	95	198	. .	9,846
Longton	59	74	133		
Louth	149	81	230	. .	6,976
Maidstone	124	76	200	. .	15,387
Newport, Isle of Wight	A small number	. .	120	. .	4,080
Newport Pagnell	10	60	70	40	24,000
Newcastle under-Lyne	. .	. .	. .	. .	. . .
Otley	14	26	40	5	3,200
Pottery M. I. Hanley	177	103	280	. .	Including all the potteries 70,000
Preston	102	354	456	53	55,000
Rochdale	. .	. .	165	22	30,000
Salisbury	40	194	234	26	9,876
Sowerby Bridge, Halifax	52	101	153	67	50,000
Staly Bridge	41	30	71	4	20,000
Stockport	200	254	454	. .	60,000
Stourbridge	30	100	130	20	6,150
Sunderland	100	164	264	. .	40,735
Swansea	180	95	275	. .	13,256
Wellingborough	21	55	76	. .	4,688
Wisbeach	46	55	101	. .	8,777
York	170	234	404	119	25,359
	4396	5224	9905		

These Institutions have been selected because the information with respect to them is complete as to the four most important points in the table. The table shows that, while the total numbers of persons connected with Institutions bears only some such proportion as 1 in 180 to the entire population of the towns in which they exist, the mechanics do not constitute the half of this fraction of the population. Moreover, except in some

peculiarly favourable instances, there appears to be no progressive increase in the numerical strength of the several institutions. It is true that the gross number of persons now enrolled as members of such Institutions may exceed that of a few years past, but this arises rather from the formation of new societies of the kind than from the increased success of those already established. It is obvious that, while the returns show that a majority of the subscribers do not belong to the labouring classes, the self-supporting principle which was urged some years since (1825) by Lord Brougham as essential to permanent stability, and to the securing the confidence of these classes for any institution, is virtually abandoned. But, assuming that the majority of the members are personally interested in adult education, and therefore should command confidence in their management of the Institutions, nevertheless the Institutions are not self-supporting, for no inconsiderable portion of income appears in nearly every instance to be derived from honorary contributors, *i. e.* opulent persons who reside in the neighbourhood of an Institution, and whose subscriptions are merely a form of annual *donation* to its funds. How far this may ultimately operate upon Institutions is a

question which needs for its solution more evidence than has been collected. Probably to such external aid most of the Institutions in the kingdom, certainly the principal ones, owe their existence; but when once established, the most certain method of interesting the workman in their success is to give him a share in their management; and the larger that share is, the more likely is the Institution to adapt itself to his wants or inclinations. It is worthy of remark, that whilst the mechanic zealously bestirs himself to attach his fellow-workmen to provident societies, trade societies, temperance societies, and the various political clubs that from time to time agitate the country, there is no evidence to show any of this spirit of proselytism in favour of Mechanics' Institutions.

The Report of the West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutes, dated April, 1840, contains the following passage:—

"The failure of the Union to accomplish this primary object [the economical engagement of lecturers] is not, however, attributable to any defect in its machinery, but to two circumstances external to it, which it cannot control; namely, first, the extreme paucity of competent lecturers; and, second, the low state of the funds in almost all the Institutes comprised in the Union. The remote cause of this state of things, in the opinion of

your Committee, (and the conviction is daily becoming strengthened as their observation is extended,) is unquestionably to be found in the absence of an early and sound intellectual and moral training for the mass of our operative population. Recent inquiries, conducted by various statistical societies, have demonstrated alike the *bad quality* and the *insufficient amount* of the education (if it may so be called) which is provided for a *part* of our infant and juvenile population; and have but too clearly shown that, with the exception of Sabbath School instruction, a large proportion receive no education whatever. What is taught fails to originate and strengthen a taste for reading, or a desire for the attainment of general knowledge; and hence it happens that all the attractions of our Mechanics' Institutes, and all the substantial advantages offered at a cheap rate in their classes, fail to induce the great bulk of our juvenile operatives to enter them. They have neither the taste for the one nor the right appreciation of the other. The Committee need not go far for the proof of this assertion, —it lies on the very surface of the reports of the Union,— namely, in the vast disparity betwixt the total number of persons enrolled in the Institutes of the West Riding, and the total number of persons of the ages, and belonging to the class for which Mechanics' Institutes are provided; and in the fact, now universally acknowledged, that the members of Mechanics' Institutes are, nineteen-twentieths of them, not of the class of mechanics, but are connected with the higher branches of handicraft trades, or are clerks in offices, and in many instances young men connected with liberal professions."

In considering the indifference of the workman to the benefits afforded by these Institutions, and the effect produced on them by the contributions, and the consequent interference of other classes, we are naturally led to discuss a matter oftentimes dependent on that interference, namely, the systematic exclusion from them of Political Science and Theology in almost every shape. This subject has of late forced itself upon the attention of the managers of many Institutions; it is mentioned in Mr. Coates's Report; it has been elaborately and ably argued in the Report for 1840 of the Manchester District Association; and it is undoubtedly one of the greatest importance, involving perhaps (having regard to the lapse of ten or twelve years) the very existence of Mechanics' Institutions.

When these Institutions sprang up, seventeen or eighteen years ago, there still prevailed in many quarters a strong jealousy of any political discussions by the people, and still more of any society which proposed to assemble periodically several hundreds of the labouring classes; nor had the prejudices against all education, beyond the miserable teaching of the charity school, yet died away: thus the benevolent and enlightened persons who were active in the formation of these

Institutions found difficulties enough to impede them, without arousing party or sectarian animosities. Vain as their efforts have in most instances been to conciliate the favour of their adversaries, the framers of the rules in these circumstances did well, and merely used an indispensable circumspection, in rigidly excluding all discussion of matters touching theology or politics. But in the lapse of the last twenty years the free expression of opinion, then so much dreaded, has not only come to be tolerated, but has become habitual and uncontrollable.

Insufficient, too, as the preliminary education of the people avowedly is, yet the proportion to the whole population of persons who can and do read is now vastly greater than it was in 1820; and hence a large mass of periodical publications (then unthought of) issues from the press, discussing political matters, and especially adapted to the workman by their topics, their style, and their price. To withhold political matters from his contemplation has thus ceased to be possible; in what form these matters shall be presented to him, whether encumbered with the exaggerations and misstatements of party, or presented to him by systematic instruction and regulated argument in the Mecha-

nics' Institution, is a question which the managers of these establishments should seriously propose to themselves.

It is true that most Institutions declare in the preamble to their rules that they are founded to instruct men in the arts they practise, and generally to impart to them useful knowledge. This would seem to imply that something was to be done in them similar to the efforts made by Count Rumford and others at the Royal Institution forty years since, when classes of mechanics were practically initiated into the mystery of their respective arts: the bricklayer constructed arches, niches, groins, set boilers, and carried flues; the brazier and tinman learned the nature and application of metallic cements; and other artisans were tutored after the same fashion. But we know that the giving *direct* instruction to the mechanic in his art could hardly have been seriously contemplated by the founders of Mechanics' Institutions; undoubtedly the project has never been executed; for from the outset the information imparted in these Institutions has consisted of general expositions of the physical sciences, in which, it is true, their connexion with many of the arts has sometimes been pointed out, but the bulk of

the instruction has been purely scientific or literary. If then it be objected, as it often is, that the introduction into these Institutions of information which does not directly and obviously improve the mechanic *as a mechanic* is subversive of their constitution, we reply, that the great mass of the instruction received in them has no relation to the practical arts; yet it has unquestionably contributed to the intellectual improvement and to the happiness of the mechanic, by affording to him objects of contemplation alike elevating and interesting, which would not have been presented to him by other means.

But we may be told that it cannot possibly do the working man any good to distract his mind with the conflicting dogmas of politicians, and that he will not construct a watch with greater delicacy, or a house with more security, in consequence of his attention to them. This is precisely the form of objection raised heretofore, but now fortunately obsolete, against discoursing to him on natural philosophy. It may fairly be contended that a man's clear comprehension of his true interests in society will induce him to perform with more heartiness his appointed duties; and most assuredly, if it promotes his self-respect, a more care-

ful display of skill in his art will be among its consequences. That is a short-sighted system of education which, in its eagerness to improve the skill of the mechanic, takes no heed of the improvement of the man. Hitherto the Mechanics' Institution has not only afforded to the members a rational occupation of their leisure and fostered a taste for the cultivation of their faculties, but it has been the only place where the workman's mind has undergone any training to fit it for the peaceful examination of evidence, and the calm recognition of truth; yet from this place is banished all instruction concerning one of the most important of the topics which interest mankind; and thus passions and prejudices are fostered which perhaps had long since become matters of history, were it not for the reluctance of Mechanics' Institutions to aid in the instruction of men on matters where they err most frequently, egregiously, and, unhappily it must be added, most fatally.

It is idle to look back upon the time, if such time there ever was, when the labouring classes could be confined to their daily labour, leaving to their superiors the management of the nation. Probably such a state of things never existed; the

history of all times and all countries exhibits instances of the interference of the people in public affairs, by outbreaks unjust, fierce, and destructive in proportion to the ignorance of the multitude, and always fraught with an aggravation of the very evils they were intended to remove. But it is sufficient for the present purpose that such a state of things is incompatible with the political institutions of this country, and, in fact, does not exist. The Chartist and the Socialist zealously diffuse their opinions far and wide; they have erected halls, and established places of meeting in which they discourse to thousands; they invite persons of adverse opinions to listen to and freely discuss the expositions of their principles: the Socialists, especially, comprise in the plan of their societies some of the most useful and attractive objects of Mechanics' Institutions; they have lectures on the sciences,* they have music, and in some cases other classes, and they add to these the occasional attraction of tea-parties, accompanied by dancing. The number of members of Socialist Institutions in London is much smaller than that of members

* The Social Institution in John-street, London, has been lectured to by several of the most eminent teachers who are wont to address the Mechanics' Institutions all over the country.

of Mechanics' Institutions, but the attendance at their lectures, discussions, and festive meetings, is much greater than at the lectures and ordinary meetings of Mechanics' Institutions; and this is believed to arise principally from the fact that the rival institution offers to the workman those things the exclusion of which from Mechanics' Institutions (especially the right of free inquiry) renders them, if not distasteful, at least uninteresting to him.

When, therefore, the mechanic is told that, if he wishes to hear the rights and duties of men, as members of society, systematically expounded and temperately discussed, he cannot be gratified at the Mechanics' Institution, surely it is equivalent to saying—"You are curious to learn something respecting the economy of civil society, and to be assured of what we assert, that what now forms its cement is its best security: we withhold from you all information on these subjects; but at the Socialist hall opposite they will strive to prove to you how unnatural is that economy, and worthless that security." Or again, he has heard men propose a change in the Constitution of his country: he is led to believe that his interests are deeply concerned in the project; he has neither the time,

the funds, nor the habits required to study the published disquisitions about it, but he would be pleased to have the views of a few intelligent men who have been at the pains to acquaint themselves with the matter exhibited to him. No; he is told —"We explain to you the physical sciences; we demonstrate to you the atomic theory; we show you the orbits of the planets, but the nature and advantages of our political Constitution, a question which every newspaper more or less raises, and which is obtruded upon you and made a motive for your conduct at every election, shall not be taught or discussed here—nevertheless, the Chartists in the next street handle it quite freely, and will spare no pains to induce you to adopt their opinions." Thus we content ourselves with deploring the errors of the labouring classes, instead of striving to remove those errors, even when ready means of doing so present themselves to us.

How far systematic instruction should be given at the lecture-table concerning the nature and origin of human society, the indisputable functions of all government, the various forms of government adopted by different nations or imposed on them, the advantages and defects of these several

forms—must of course depend in each Institution on its peculiar circumstances; and so too of the various branches of political economy, wherein no member of society is more nearly interested than the working man. Lectures have frequently been delivered on branches of Political Economy at the London Mechanics' Institution and in several places in Scotland. But it should be remarked that these matters are peculiarly fitted for the Discussion class. Experience shows that nothing tends more to breed respect for adverse opinions, and to cure men of intolerance (that mischievous offspring of ignorance), than the necessity of defending one's own opinions before a discriminating and well-regulated audience. The presence of a portion of the managing committee, and the good temper which almost universally prevails in discussion-classes, will always ensure strict decorum and forbearance. At one of the most successful Mechanics' Institutions in England a Political class has been formed under the superintendence of the Chairman; and the text-book used by him is the Useful Knowledge Society's Series of Treatises on Political Philosophy—a work entirely devoid of party allusions.* The

* The safety and the benefit to the community at large of dif-

Chairman of that Institution writes:—"Our Political Meetings have been held once a-week during the winter, and once a-fortnight during the summer season. We have had debates on the charter, universal suffrage, ballot, taxes on food, &c., but with the most perfect harmony, and no way disturbing the general business of the Institution. We read and discussed the evidence taken by the Import Committee."

It has been thought expedient thus unreservedly to treat of a matter so essentially important, not only to these institutions, but to society at large; and whether or not the reader may have been convinced of the propriety of admitting instruction in Political Science into Mechanics' Institutions, he probably will, at least, acknowledge how important the question of its admission or exclusion is. The observations have been confined to Political Science, because means are offered for instruction in Theology in places consecrated to that object; and although there may be as little reason for the exclusion of the one subject as of the other, yet the need of political instruction seems in this respect the most urgent.

fusing Political Knowledge among the people are fully discussed in the Introductory Discourse to that Series.

Before dismissing this subject it may be useful to advert to a discussion in December last at the Manchester Mechanics' Institution, on a proposal to expunge the restrictive clause from the rules, so that the directors might open a newspaper-room. The discussion ended, after two days' debate, in a resolution that the introduction of newspapers is not a violation of the rule; and although these publications are professedly the organs of party politics, yet scarcely any one was found seriously to object to their introduction. No doubt all present felt that the working man *will* at all events consult the newspaper, and if denied it in the reading-room of the Mechanics' Institution he is tempted to seek it in the alehouse.

The foregoing pages are far from recommending that Mechanics' Institutions should be made places for the discussion of mere ephemeral party questions, such as the fitness of one man or set of men in preference to another for particular offices; still less should they be used for the agitation of local controversies. Whether these Institutions are viewed as places of Instruction or of rational recreation, the introduction of party bitterness into them is equally to be deprecated. But the principles of Political Science, and the application of

those principles, can be easily taught, and usefully discussed, without the risk of this evil: and if Politics are once studied as a science, much of the prejudice which now prevails concerning them, and the party rancour resulting from it, will yield to increased knowledge.

Perhaps another reason why the working man does not frequent the Mechanics' Institution may be found in its pecuniary arrangements not being adapted to his habits, or even to the means of those who receive very low wages. The man who toils daily for his bread and the maintenance of a family is always too busy with the necessities of the present to be easily tempted by any prospective enjoyment: his current income is therefore absorbed in the supply of his home, and the purchase of those pleasures which he can immediately procure. Probably the amount of the year's subscription, varying as it does from ten shillings to twenty, and in some few instances from the latter sum to thirty shillings, would not be grudged by him if it were so levied as not to press irksomely upon him at one moment. The several kinds of entertainment and indulgence which he has recourse to in his leisure hours he can have meted out to him in whatever degree his prudence or the

state of his purse may dictate. If he have but twopence to spend, with this he can obtain a draught of liquor, the perusal of one or more of the public papers, and an hour or two of society with persons of his own rank in life. If he were asked for two shillings to secure these at once for a fortnight he might hesitate; the two shillings would procure many things for him and his family, while the twopence is below consideration; but if the obtaining of these pleasures for a still longer period were placed on the footing of Mechanics' Institutions, and required the quarterly payment in advance of six or eight shillings, probably he would forego them altogether. Thus the alehouse, supposing it to be resorted to with the frugality of expenditure we have suggested, accumulates the fractional payments of the working man until at the three months' end a dozen shillings at least will have been transferred from his earnings to its till. The Mechanics' Institute may, to such a man, be attended with as much or more enjoyment, and certainly more profit, for one-fourth of this sum paid at one time; but twopence or threepence per diem for three months does not affect his finances so deeply as three shillings disbursed at once. Some arrangement is much to be desired which would enable the me-

chanic to lay out his twopence or his penny for the instruction or amusement dispensed by a Mechanics' Institution, with the same facility with which he procures two pennyworth of spirits, or the recreations of a tap-room. There is scarcely a Mechanics' Institute in the country the subscription to which exceeds sixpence per week, and probably double that sum is devoted by the most frugal workman to obtain some recreation for his leisure hours; but there are few institutions which accept sixpence weekly from their subscribers. It is surely well worthy of consideration, whether it might not be of mutual benefit to the institutes and the mechanics, to allow every person who chooses to pay a halfpenny or penny to have access to the reading-room, and to throw open upon the same plan those classes which admit of it. With respect to lectures, the entrance fee to strangers at the Dundee Institution is threepence each, whereas in most others it is sixpence, and very frequently a shilling. The casual visitor may with propriety be called upon to pay twice as much for a lecture as the regular subscriber; but this would seldom render it necessary to require more than twopence for his admission, and the limits of the building should alone determine the expediency of exceed-

ing this trifling sum. Adverting to cheapness as an essential element of Mechanics' Institutions, Dr. Thomas Murray, in a letter quoted in the Manchester Association's Report, says:—

"I am very glad that in the Salford Lyceum, as well as that of Chorlton-upon-Medlock, the charge is low,—only, if I mistake not, 2*s*. per quarter. You cannot possibly be lower. But the principle I have found to be as applicable to the sale of tickets for a lecture as of any article in trade, namely, that cheapness extends consumption; and that *more money* may be made by numerous sales with a small profit than by few sales with a large profit. By reducing the fee at Dunfermline from 3*s*. for half a course of lectures to 1*s*., the directors, in 1837—8, drew about 10*l*. more than they had drawn when the ticket was high; in other words, drew 20*l*. more including both half courses; while the benefits of instruction were far more widely diffused. I know one or two other instances of a similar kind. I think your low fees do you great honour; at the same time that they permit the advantages of the institution to be far more generally extended. I flatter myself that, with your very low ticket, and with a small share of calm quiet canvassing, you will, or, at least, should, never have a lower attendance than 500. If you have good subjects and good lecturers, and address a class of 500, the good you must do in the course of a single session is altogether incalculable."

At Keighley, in Yorkshire, there are in the insti-

tution 170 members whose subscription is two-pence weekly.

At the North London Institute, King's Cross, the admission-fee to the lectures is for the hall threepence, for the galleries sixpence.

Again, at Gateshead, there is a weekly concert and lecture society, admission twopence each. It is successful, and there is a balance of 44*l.* in the treasurer's hands in April, 1840.

By adapting the *mode* of payment to the resources and habits of the workman, much would be done to remove the barrier which seems now to oppose his admission to Mechanics' Institutions, and perhaps to render needless any reduction of the amount of subscription. As the instruction given by these institutions ought to be essentially good, they ought always to have a surplus income beyond their expenditure.

Assuming (as we must do) that Mechanics' Institutions cannot succeed, excepting in most rare circumstances, as places of mere instruction, it may be worthy of inquiry whether it is not expedient that they should afford to the workman the same advantages which club-houses now give to the more opulent classes. The home of the unmarried journeyman is often a contracted chamber which he

shares with a fellow workman; he therefore seeks a home in some cheaply-accessible place of public resort, where he can obtain refreshment and social intercourse during his leisure hours. Provided a weekly or a daily payment were accepted, subject to certain restrictions concerning the admission of members, and if refreshments could be obtained at the Mechanics' Institution, the workman would have strong motives to resort to it; and finding himself upon the spot would scarcely fail to avail himself of the means which it affords of improving his mind.

This consideration naturally leads to another topic—female education—for which provision has been made in several of the more recently formed institutions. In the Manchester Lyceums classes for females in the useful arts peculiar to their sex, as knitting, sewing, &c., and in the elementary branches of knowledge, have been established and conducted with manifest advantage. The classes are of course distinct from those attended by males. If upon no better ground than that of enlisting a powerful ally, any step which interests the wives and mothers of workmen in Mechanics' Institutions is much to be approved. The frugal housewife is habitually jealous of the slightest misappli-

cation of her husband's wages, and she is apt to consider as prodigal every outlay that does not directly minister to some physical want. Sometimes her praiseworthy anxiety induces her to disapprove innocent, sometimes really though not obviously useful, expenditure. Thus all societies, such as Mechanics' Institutes, are looked on as absorbing a portion of the husband's income which might be much better applied, and this, perhaps, especially, because whatever enjoyment accrues from funds so expended she is wholly excluded from partaking of. But impress on her the great truth that, beside his animal wants, man has others of a higher order that crave gratification, and that the profligacy to which the former sometimes lead is chiefly attributable to neglect of the latter, convince her that moral and intellectual recreations ennoble without impoverishing, while merely sensual ones at once debase and impoverish man—and the industrious self-denying wives of the labouring population will become the fast friends of Mechanics' Institutions.

At the Philosophical Institution, Mile-end, in the neighbourhood of London, there is a musical class for females, under the tuition of a lady and the superintendence of a committee of ladies.

There is another change which has been supposed likely to contribute to the usefulness of Mechanics' Institutions and to the comfort and morals of their members. The workman has one entire day of rest for the performance of his religious duties and the cultivation of his moral and intellectual faculties. During the few months of the year, when the weather permits it, he probably cannot better occupy his afternoon than in enjoying with his family the beauties which Providence spreads around them in a country-walk. But during nearly seven months of the year such a recreation is impossible, and (especially if he is an unmarried man) he must either spend his evening in his lodging—part of a room probably in some obscure alley in a populous town—or he resorts to the alehouse, not for the love of drinking, but because man is so constituted that he will have amusement, and the alehouse is the only place open to him.

It is urged that there can scarcely be any greater objection to the opening of classes or the giving of lectures on Sunday in a Mechanics' Institution, than to the teaching of a Sunday-school. At the Mile-end Institution, already mentioned, lectures are delivered on Sunday evenings on

Natural History and the practical sciences which are associated with it, in illustration of the power, wisdom, and goodness of God. It is contended that at all events the reading-room may be open, and another room may be devoted to those who wish to engage in conversation; and that this arrangement, combined with the admission of the female members of mechanics' families, would be eminently effective in rendering institutions popular among the industrious classes.

The class of institutions which appear hitherto to have been most successful in winning the mechanic's support have been the Lyceums, established within these three years. Their constitution and progress are very fully detailed in the Manchester District Report, which was principally drawn up by Mr. Herford, of Manchester, one of the founders and the main supporters of these admirable Institutions :—

" The Lyceums of Ancoats, Chorlton-on-Medlock, and Salford, have realized the three essentials of Mechanics' Institutions :—*Cheapness*, which both insures their advantages reaching those who chiefly need them, and, by enlarging their sphere of usefulness, increases their pecuniary resources ;—*Self-government*, which prevents their objects being perverted, as sometimes happens, from the real interests of the members, to suit the personal or

party ends of those who establish them; and lastly, such an admixture of *amusement* and *elementary instruction*, as, whilst the more aspiring seeker after knowledge is aided and advanced, is especially calculated to interest and benefit the humbler and more ignorant. The promoters have also varied from the ordinary plan of Mechanics' Institutions in two important particulars, viz. *Female Instruction*, for which distinct classes are formed under female superintendence; and the admission of *Newspapers*, which is deemed not only important in itself, as supplying a variety of valuable information to the operative which he cannot otherwise meet with, but absolutely essential as providing a substitute for the tavern, where alone he could before read them.* These are the distinctive features of the Lyceums, and have been proved, by the success which has attended them, to be principles of great importance in institutions for popular instruction.

"The advantages of each Lyceum are the following:—

"A Library of circulation, consisting of about 1500 volumes.

"A News-room and Reading-room, supplied with the London and provincial daily and weekly Newspapers, Magazines, Reviews, &c., of different shades of political opinion, selected with strict impartiality. Juniors under sixteen years of age are not admitted to the News-room.

"Lectures, generally every week, upon interesting subjects, popularly explained and illustrated.

* This is not true of London: the coffee-houses (usually very well-conducted and comfortable establishments) are well supplied with newspapers, and often other periodical works.

"Classes for the instruction of males, juvenile and adult, in reading, writing, arithmetic, grammar, &c.

"Female classes in the same branches, with sewing and knitting; under the superintendence of a salaried female teacher and a committee of ladies, and in separate apartments.

"An Essay and Discussion Society, meeting weekly or fortnightly.

"Classes for vocal and instrumental music, elocution, and drawing, to which the members have access on payment of an additional subscription.

"Connected with the Salford and also with the Chorlton Lyceum is a spacious and well-appointed Gymnasium.

"Occasional tea-parties, concerts, and *soirées*, afford to the members of each Lyceum and their families opportunities of harmless relaxation and amusement.

"The subscription is 2*s*. per quarter. In the Ancoats Lyceum *females* pay only 1*s*. 6*d*. There are a few honorary subscribers of one guinea and half-a-guinea.

"In the Salford Lyceum a plan has been adopted by the Directors, with the view of extending the Library, and at the same time affording additional advantages to those members who may be willing to pay more than the ordinary subscription, viz. the creation of *Library shares*, at 5*s*. each, the holders of which, so long as they continue members, are entitled to the privilege of having out two volumes at one time. The shares are paid either at once, or by instalments, and the money thus raised is appropriated to the purchase of new books for the Library.

"The government of each institution is vested in a Board of twenty-four Directors, a Deputy Treasurer, and

Honorary Secretary, (Directors *ex-officio*,) who are annually chosen by ballot amongst the members of not less than three-quarters of a year's standing. Each Lyceum has its President, Vice-Presidents, and Treasurer, generally residents of influence in the neighbourhood, who are not *ex-officio* Directors, although their presence and counsel are at all times gladly welcomed at the meetings.

" A good understanding and co-operation in engaging lecturers is maintained amongst the three Lyceums. Several meetings of their members and friends have been held during the past year, partly with this object, and partly for the purpose of making their principles and design more generally understood by the public.

" The Lyceums were established in the latter part of the year 1838. The eagerness with which the operatives seized the opportunity presented to them of mental improvement is evinced by the following statement of the number of members the second quarter after their formation :—

Ancoats Lyceum	735	Members.
Chorlton „	1500	„
Salford „	530	„

making a total of nearly 3000 members, without any apparent diminution of the members of existing societies. In consequence of continued depression of trade, and the dearness of provisions—circumstances peculiarly affecting manufacturing operatives—the Lyceums have lately shared the fate of other Institutions, and declined considerably in numbers.

Lyceum, Ancoats.

"The Lyceums are an experiment, first, as to the wants of the working classes, and, secondly, as to the lowest amount of subscription that can render such Institutions self-supporting. The first point, I conceive, has been settled beyond dispute by the numbers who flock to the Lyceums, and by the strong desire manifested by them to obtain useful information. There is a thirst for political knowledge amongst the adult members which must and will be satisfied, either in the quiet and orderly rooms of the Lyceums, or with the vicious and debasing associations of the public-house or beer-shop. The Lyceums, therefore, supply a vacuum which existed previous to their establishment, and which is supplied to a greater extent than is usual at Institutions of this description, by issuing half-quarterly tickets at one shilling, and thereby admitting a class of persons to whom even two shillings at one time is an obstacle. The number who took half-quarterly tickets from August to September, 1840, is 84, 63 of whom are new members, and their occupations may be classed as follow: piercers and other assistants in factories, 22; weavers, 16; handicraft trades, 11: errand-boys, 7; labourers, 6; mechanics, 5; joiners, 3; dyers, &c., 4; letter-press printers, 1: warehousemen, 3; not described, 6. This, compared with the general list of members, shows a decided majority of persons engaged in humble situations, whose condition it is particularly desirable to improve. On the other hand, few, if any, are withdrawn from our usual subscribers. Thus a door is opened to a

class previously, to a great extent, excluded, and that without injury to the general interests of the Institution. The income of the Ancoats Lyceum is now sufficient to meet its expenses; and if it can only maintain its present numbers, (644 members, of whom 75 are females,) there is no doubt, with judicious management, of its ultimate success, and of its permanency amongst the educational institutions of the town. There is nothing, however, to *speculate* on. The Directors must act with extreme caution, and not engage in any schemes without a moral certainty of success. At present, nothing has been spent in books for the library or in lectures during the last quarter, and there is an excess of income of about 8*l*. over the expenses. This sum, if judiciously laid out in books, would add much to the attractions of the LIBRARY; but should the Directors take an injudicious step, such as engaging a LECTURER who should prove a failure, for three nights, at two guineas per night, this, with the expense of printing, would exhaust the surplus, and leave no attractions for the remainder of the quarter; and hence, in my opinion, the propriety of the determination of the present Directors to engage no expensive lecturers, but to depend upon the gratuitous services of their friends. Institutions like ours cannot receive any real benefit from this association, unless the attention of its officers be turned to procuring second-rate lecturers, whose time, valued at 2*l*. or 2*l*. 10*s*. per week, being fully engaged, moderate lectures might be procured for about 10*s*. each, a sum beyond which we cannot go without endangering the stability of our Institution. When we have had first-

rate lecturers not one-third of our members have attended; whilst, on the other hand, a gratuitous lecture, delivered in language that could be understood, has been well attended, and been received with satisfaction and applause. The library is of much more importance; and this is shown by the fact of there being an average circulation of 103 books daily. Many young women take out tickets for their younger brothers, in order that the latter may attend the classes, and bring home books from the library for their sisters' perusal. The CLASSES are not behind the other arrangements of the Institution in utility. The Directors make it a point of duty to visit them frequently. The active and intelligent members are sought out and promoted, the teachers encouraged, and two or three individuals appointed to the care of each class, thereby rendering it almost impossible for any to be left entirely without a teacher. They are consequently well attended, and the pupils generally satisfied. The DISCUSSION class is frequently attended by 40 to 45 members; and although no restraint is placed upon the subjects, beyond receiving the approbation of the majority present, the debates invariably pass off with good feeling, and the members meet again the following week more like brothers or members of one family than fierce contending parties, advocating each its own peculiar views. One reason is, that no *divisions* take place, each member (or stranger, if present) having the privilege of giving his sentiments freely, but having no means of ascertaining whether those opinions are entertained by the majority, further than he is able to gather from the various speakers. Our COFFEE PARTIES are conducted

by this class; and although supplied at the low charge of 6*d.* each, a considerable profit has been realized. At one of them, held on the 3rd of March, there were 630 persons present, and the net profits amounted to 4*l.* 10*s.* 5*d.* This induced the Committee to hold another for the benefit of the Library, and with the profits (4*l.* 9*s.* 3*d.*) 33 volumes were purchased. The amusements, which are generally furnished gratuitously by members of the Institution and their friends, consist of instrumental music, singing, and recitations. The Directors and Members of the Institution feel the cause to be their own. Acting upon the advice of an eminent fellow-townsman,* at a recent meeting, instead of raising the price of their commodity, they have determined to improve its quality, and thereby increase the demand. The demand has been increased to the utmost of their means of comfortable accommodation; and their energies are now being turned to the erection of a new building, suited to the various purposes of the Institution. From this object I trust they will not be diverted until they have reared a building of their own, calculated to afford room for at least 1000 members,—a number which, I have no doubt, they could maintain, were suitable accommodation provided.

"THOMAS HANDLEY, Deputy Treasurer."

* Mr. Cobden.

CHAPTER III.

LECTURES—APPARATUS—CLASSES—CERTIFICATES.

THE subject of lectures was carefully discussed in the "Manual for Mechanics' Institutions," and the reports from the various institutions have tended to confirm the opinions there expressed.

In treating this matter it must be borne in mind that Mechanics' Institutions have now, whatever their original design may have been, a twofold object—the instruction of the workman, and his rational recreation; and perhaps there is no cause for regret, certainly there is none for surprise, if the lectures the most frequented are those which have the latter object principally in view. But the testimony is nearly uniform that, after a while, the workman ceases altogether to frequent the lecture-room; and hence the question arises whether there are not other modes of intellectual recreation equally effective and more economical.

In the Report from the Dundee Institution for 1840 it is remarked that—

"The last course of lectures were paid for at the rate of 30*s.* per lecture, which sum, if it were continued during the year, would drain the greater part of our funds without leaving anything for *books* and incidental expenses."

And in a summary of the receipt and expenditure from the commencement of the institution, it appears that the sum devoted to the purchase of books has been 452*l.* 10*s.*, while that expended in lectures has amounted to 412*l.* 10*s.*

Again, from the Calton, Mile End, and Bridgeton Mechanics' Institution Report, 1836, it appears that the cost of lectures was 65*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*; that of books for library, 44*l.* 11*s.* 6*d.*

The Todmorden Institute's Report for 1840 presents the following statement:—

"Out of an expenditure of 94*l.* 5*s.* 9*d.*, 32*l.* 2*s.* 1*d.* was expended on lectures, the set-off for admissions to which amounts to only 3*l.* 15*s.*; and the sum that accrued from members' subscriptions was only 53*l.* 5*s.* 10*d.*"

On the other hand, there is reason to think that in many institutions the lectures are the principal means of raising an income; many persons becoming members for the sole purpose of attending the lectures, and in no other respect availing themselves of the benefits of the institution.

The committee of the York Institute would seem to have fully considered this subject, and in their Report to the West Riding Union of Mechanics' Institutions for 1840 they advert to weekly lectures by members, which three years' experience has proved successful beyond their most sanguine expectations. The interest of the members has not only continued undiminished, but their numbers have been steadily and progressively increasing; and the important saving effected by gratuitous lectures, many of which have been excellent, has enabled the committee to make large and valuable accessions to the library, the readers of which have increased in a higher ratio to the increased number of members.

There are men to be found in all towns of any extent who may, as in York, be most advantageously invited to contribute their portion of instruction at the lecture-table. Many entertain the erroneous opinion that to communicate information orally requires extraordinary ability; whereas, according to others, there are few persons well acquainted with a subject who cannot make a clear and interesting exposition of it, after devoting a little consideration to the arrangement of its details, for the purpose of presenting them

in a natural and simple order to the minds of an audience. If this opinion be correct, every institution has among its members persons capable of detailing processes in the useful arts,—and there are few subjects more interesting than these, whether to the public at large, or to the teacher of abstract science, who is perpetually desirous to illustrate his subject by reference to them. The humblest labours of the artisan, in most trades, may be made interesting to any audience. The manufactures of iron and steel afford matter for many highly popular discourses. The art of printing may be explained by any person of ordinary capacity who practises it. Lectures, too, might be constructed by a division of labour, the more intelligent young men being engaged on their joint production.

There are few wants more universally felt, or which more impede the efforts of gratuitous lecturers, than that of apparatus, or at least of illustrative diagrams upon a scale fitted for the class-room or the lecture-room. At Lewes a gentleman,* to whom the Mechanics' Institution there is greatly indebted for his constant and valuable aid in all branches of its labours, has with his own

* Mr. Henry Browne, the secretary of the Sussex Association of Mechanics' Institutions.

hand painted (principally in black and white) large diagrams illustrative of mechanics, of electricity, and chemistry. The experiments hitherto made to multiply such diagrams cheaply, so as to place them within the reach of schools and Mechanics' Institutions, have not succeeded; but most institutions can obtain the assistance of a scientific person to point out what simple diagrams are necessary to illustrate the science about to be lectured on, and they ought to be able to ensure the co-operation of some of their members in painting such as are pointed out. We extract the following passage from the Report of the Manchester District Association :—

" APPARATUS.—The following circular was addressed by the Committee to the Associated Institutions proposing a joint purchase of apparatus :—

JOINT PURCHASE OF APPARATUS.

" One of the great obstacles in obtaining the services of gratuitous lecturers is the difficulty and expense of procuring for them apparatus and illustrative plates. In order to diminish this difficulty it has been suggested that such of the Associated Institutions as deem it desirable should subscribe to a common fund for the purpose of procuring apparatus for their common use. The Executive Committee of the Association deem it within their province to offer to undertake the purchasing and arrang-

ing of the apparatus for such of the Institutions as think it fit to intrust them with the management.

"It is proposed to begin with a fund raised by contributions of 10*l.* from each of the institutions that enter into this plan, which will be expended (reserving a part for necessary repairs and renewals) in the purchase of an air-pump and electrical machine, together with receivers, jars, &c. &c., for exhibiting the more striking phenomena of electricity and of pneumatics; afterwards pumps, some of glass, a model steam-engine, a dissected model, to show the working of the valves, the instruments for exhibiting mechanics, and hydrostatics, and for popular chemical experiments, gradually increasing the apparatus according to the number of institutions joining and amount raised. The apparatus for each science to be complete in itself, and capable of being packed up in a portable form. It will then be allowed to circulate to each of the subscribing institutions in rotation; the time allowed will be amply sufficient to give the members an opportunity of seeing the experiments which may be exhibited: when one set is done with it must be forwarded to the next institution, and another set received, and so on in succession; and thus each institution will have nearly as much benefit from the apparatus as if it all belonged to it alone, at an expense of only a fraction of the total cost. The expense of carriage, which within moderate distances would be very small, must be borne by the individual institutions; also all losses from breakage (not of inevitable wear) must be made good."

Where these several expedients fail, it is worthy

of consideration whether lectures may not be wholly or in part superseded by meetings of the members, diversified by as much to inform and amuse the mind as the resources of the institution will afford.

It is hoped that nothing which has been said tends to impair the conviction that the most beneficial object which a Mechanics' Institution can present to itself for attainment is the affording to its members sound and systematic knowledge. The more diligently this object is pursued, notwithstanding all adverse circumstances, the more useful will the institution be; and perhaps the Edinburgh School of Arts, whose proceedings were largely described in the "Manual" (pp. 23-30), affords the best model for imitation in this respect. But the Reports before us abundantly prove, that to confine institutions at present to this aim is incompatible with the state of intellectual preparation, and with the wishes of the members.

To give some notion of the class and extent of information imparted at the public lecture-table, we subjoin the list of lectures delivered in 1839-40 at the institutions connected with the West Riding Association:—

INSTITUTE.	LECTURES.	REMARKS
BARNSLEY . . .	None.	
CLECKHEATON . .	Six Lectures by Mr. Trant.	GRATUITOUS.
HALIFAX . . .	Six Lectures on Mechanical Science, as applied to the Arts, by Professor Partington.	
KEIGHLEY . . .	Three Lectures on America, by Professor Greenbank. One Do. on the Ebbing and Flowing Well near Settle. One Do. on the advantages of Classical Studies. Three Do. on a Comparison betwixt Reason and Instinct. One Do. on the benefits of Mathematics.	GRATUITOUS.
LEEDS	Six Lectures on Mechanical Science, by Professor Partington. One Do. on Chemistry, as applied to the Arts, by Mr. Thurnell. Four Do. on Chemical Manipulation, by Mr. J. R. Johnson. Four Do. on Acids, Acetic, Hydrocyanic, Boracic, and Citric, by Mr. William Huggon. Three Do. on Acids, Sulphuric, Muriatic, and Nitric, by Mr. G. Thurnell. One Do. on Ammonia, by Mr. J. R. Johnson. Two Do. on Combustion and Caloric, by Mr. C. L. Dresser. One Do. on Soda, and its present State of Manufacture, by Mr. G. Thurnell. One Do. on Logwood, as applied in dyeing, by Mr. W. Holt. Two Do. on Gas-making, by Mr. J. Hield. One Do. on Chemical Analysis, by Mr. J. Simpson, Jun. Five Do. on Geography, by Mr. G. Thurnell. Six Do. on Astronomy, by Mr. M. Crabtree.	All GRATUITOUS, except Professor Partington's.
RIPON	None.	
OTLEY	None.	
SOWERBY-BRIDGE .	Two Lectures on Early English History, by Mr. G. Thurnell, of Leeds. One Do. on the Injuries to Health incident in certain Manufacturing and Mining Processes, by Dr. Alexander. Six Do. on Mechanical Science as applied to the useful Arts and the Improvements in the Steam Engine, by Professor Partington.	GRATUITOUS.

INSTITUTE.	LECTURES.	REMARKS.
SOWERBY-BRIDGE—*continued.*	One Lecture on the Hydro-Oxygen Blow Pipe, by Professor Partington. One Do. on Galvanism, by Do. Two Do. on Oxygen and Hydrogen Gases, by Mr. James Dodgson. Twenty-four Illustrative Lectures during the Period of the Exhibition, by Professor Partington.	GRATUITOUS.
TODMORDEN . .	Three Lectures on America, by Professor Greenbank. Two Do. on Early English History, by Mr. Thurnell. Four Do. on Mechanical Science, by Professor Partington.	
YORK	Five Lectures on Chemistry, by Mr. Baker. One Do. on Phrenology, by Mr. Husband. Three Do. on the Philosophy of Sleep, by Do. One Do. on the Civilization of Africa, by Do. One Do. on the Uses of Horn in Manufactures, by the Rev. C. Wellbeloved. One Do. on the Uses of Bone in Do., by Do. One Do. on Technicalities, by Mr. Wilkinson. Six Do. on Elocution, by Do. Seven Do. on Electricity, by Mr. White. One Do. on Pneumatics, by Do. Three Do. on the Manners and Customs of London during the Eighteenth Century, by Mr. Newmarch. One Do. on Substitutes for Capital Punishments, by Mr. Pearson. One Do. on the Fine Arts, by Mr. Haydon. Three Do. on Music, by Mr. Tomlinson. Six Do. on the British Poets, by Professor Calvert.	All GRATUITOUS, except Mr. Haydon's and Professor Calvert's.

The following list we extract from the Report of the Manchester District Association for 1840:

Institution.	Subject of Lectures.	No.	Lecturer.	
Ashton-under-Lyne	Physiology, connected with the Health of the Working Classes	2	Mr. A. Aspland	Grts
Bolton	Comic Literature of England	3	Mr. W. Ball	Paid
Bury	Education	4	Mr. John Smith	Paid
	Chemistry	6	Mr. Davis	Paid
	Architecture	3	Mr. Heighams	Paid
	Physiology with a view to Education	4	Dr. Cantor	Paid
	Infusoria	1	Dr. Warwick	Paid
Darwen	Mechanical Philosophy	6	Professor Partington	Paid
	Astronomy	3	Mr. Holden	Paid
	Optics	3		
	Human Physiology	8	Dr. Epps	Paid
	Hieroglyphics	2	Mr. Higgings, Preston	Grts
	British Reptiles	1	Mr. Howitt, M.R.C.S.	Grts
	Chemistry	1	Mr. Dale, Manchester	Paid
Liverpool	Advantages of Mechanics' Institutions	1	Dr. J. P. Nichol	Grts
	Human Physiology	8	Dr. Epps	Paid
	Infusoria.—Galvanism	6	Dr Warwick	Paid
	Phrenology	8	Mr. W. J. Vernon	Paid
	Mechanical Philosophy	2	Mr. R. J. Nelson	Grts
	Popular Fallacies	4	Mr. W. J. Birch	Grts
	Astronomy	8	Rev. W. Jevons	Paid
	Domestic Happiness, Education, &c.	4	Mr. John Smith	Paid
	Architecture	4	Mr. J. A. Picton	Grts
	Electricity	4	Mr. H. Dircks	Grts
	Voltaic ditto	3	Mr T. Spencer	Grts
	Philosophy of Education	2	Mr. R. J. Nelson	Grts
	Comic Literature	6	Mr. W. Ball	Paid
	Chemistry	4	Mr. E. Halse	Grts
Manchester—Ancoats Lyceum	Phrenology	7	Mr. W. J. Birch	Grts
	Popular Fallacies	6		
	Chemistry	1	Mr H. Day	Grts
	Poets of Humble Life	6	Rev W. Gaskell, M.A.	Grts
	Chemistry	6	Mr. John Leigh, M.R.C.S.	Grts
	Education and Capabilities of Woman	1	Mrs. Martin	Grts
	Geology and Mining	4	Mr. W. Hawkes Smith	Grts
	Oratory	4	Professor F. B. Calvert	Paid
	Music	4	Mr. R. Weston	Grts
	Celestial Phenomena	3	Dr. J. P. Nichol	Paid
	Natural Theology deduced from Mind	4	Mr. W. J. Birch	Grts
Salford Lyceum	Celestial Phenomena	3	Dr. J. P. Nichol	Paid
	Oratory	4	Professor Calvert	Paid
	Comic Literature	4	Mr. Ball	Paid
	Vocal Music	4	Mr R. Weston	Grts
	Electricity	3	Mr. H. Dircks	Grts
	Geology	4	Mr. W. Hawkes Smith	Grts
	Natural Theology	4	Mr. W J. Birch	Grts

Institution.	Subject of Lectures.	No.	Lecturer.	
Salford Lyceum ..	Vocal Music	4	Mr. Seed	Grts
	Beauties of Shakspeare ...	2	Mr. J Jerom	Grts
Chorlton Lyceum..	Human Physiology	8	Dr. Epps	Paid
	Education; and Geography.	8	Mr. John Smith	Paid
	Elocution	4	Professor Calvert	Paid
	Astronomy	8	Rev. W. Giles	Grts
	Celestial Phenomena	3	Dr. J. P. Nichol	Paid
	Electricity	3	Mr. H. Dircks	Grts
Oldham	Physical Geography	4	Rev. G. Buckland	Grts
	Geography and Education ..	8	Mr. John Smith	Paid
	The Microscope and Chemistry	2	Dr. Warwick	Paid
	Female Education	2	Mrs. Martin	Paid
	Botany	4	John Roby, Esq., F.L.S...	Grts
Prescot	Chemistry	3	Mr. C. E. Rawlins	Grts
	Astronomy	3	Dr. Henderson	Grts
	History of China	1	Mr. J. Rawlins	Grts
	Electricity	3	Mr. H. Dircks	Grts
	Physiology and Health	2	Mr. Lewis	Grts
	Phrenology	1	Mr. Wilson	Grts
	Zoology of British Seas	1	Mr Forbes	Grts
	Natural History	1	Dr. Carpenter	Grts
	Geology	3	Rev. W. Owen	Grts
Preston.....	Natural History	6	Prof. T Rymer Jones	Paid
	Comic Literature	3	Mr. W. Ball	Paid
	Meteorology	3	Rev. John Clay	Grts
	British Reptiles	3	W. Howitt, Esq.	Grts
	Hieroglyphics	2	J. F. Higgins, Esq.	Grts
Rochdale.....	Architecture	4	Mr Heighams	Paid
	Physiology	6	Dr. Cantor	Paid
	Geology	3	Mr. Elias Hall, Castleton ..	Paid
	Astronomy	1	Mr. M'Cleary	Paid
Shelton (Potteries)	Self-Education	1	Rev. J. Fletcher, Hanley ..	Grts
	The Teeth	1	Mr. Snape, ditto ...	Grts
	Phrenology	1		
	Structure of Birds	1	Dr. Davis, ditto ...	Grts
	Sea-Side Ramble	1	Mr. Abington, ditto ..	Grts
	On Poetry and Poets	3	Mr. Montgomery	Paid
	Comic Literature	6	Mr. Ball	Paid
	Botany	3	Mr. Murray	Paid
Staleybridge	Literature	2	Mr. D. Cheetham	Grts
	Tides	1	Mr. D. Cheetham, Jun.....	Grts
	Chemistry	1	M. T. Taylor	Grts
	Literature	2	Mr. Bowring	Grts
	Geology	1	Mr. Elias Hall	Paid
Stockport	Ancient History	1	Rev. W. Cruikshank	Grts
	English History	1		
Warrington	Electricity	3	H. Dircks, Esq.	Grts
	Poets and Poetry of Humble Life	7	Rev. W. Gaskell, M.A., Manr.	Grts
	Comic Literature	3	Mr. W. Ball	Paid

With respect to the attendance on these lectures the information is very vague; but upon one point there cannot be a doubt—that the lec-

tures savouring of entertainment rather than instruction are the most frequented; for instance, those on the drama, music, and comic literature.

As there exists everywhere extreme difficulty in making known the nature of such institutions, it might be well, on one or two occasions in a year, to allow the public to attend a lecture without cost: and at the conclusion of it an opportunity might be taken briefly to announce the objects and advantages of the institution.

CLASSES.

The chief among the causes which prevent the success of Mechanics' Institutions is the want of elementary knowledge among the working classes. Instances repeatedly occur in which a sense of his inability to keep pace with those who have acquired some proficiency in writing, spelling, and arithmetic, has repelled a young man from studies he was eager to pursue. Thus strictly elementary classes ought to form a part of all Mechanics' Institutions. At the Oldham Lyceum "male classes for writing and arithmetic meet on Tuesday and Friday evenings; the number of pupils is 88; the average attendance 64. The classes for reading, grammar, and geography, meet on Wednesday evening, pupils 50, average attendance 40."

At the Bolton Mechanics' Institution the elementary class for arithmetic, &c., has an average attendance four nights per week of thirty-eight pupils. At the London Mechanics' Institution the elementary classes are always well attended; and at the Westminster Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution, no class for writing and arithmetic was formed at its commencement, but, the matter being pressed upon the attention of the committee, a class was established about a year since, and continues to be well attended; and we know that several members have joined the institution expressly to belong to this class. Classes of this kind can be so easily conducted, and the want of the instruction they convey is so seriously felt, that they ought to be maintained, however small the number of pupils attending them. The young man who, after the labours of the day, will submit to the confinement and the drudgery of a class-room for the acquirement of elementary knowledge is deserving of all encouragement, and can scarcely fail to become a valuable member of the institution, and to repay it, with interest, the benefits which it has bestowed on him. But such a person will probably likewise exercise considerable influence in the circle in which he moves,

inspiring his associates with respect for his perseverance and the fruits which it may have produced, and exciting them to imitate his example and profit by his attainments.

In forming classes, especial attention ought to be devoted to matters obviously useful, and to connecting the sciences with their practical applications. Thus classes for drawing are usually successful, as they are of great value to almost all descriptions of workmen; and lineal drawing and perspective should be principally taught in them.

For the success of these classes, as, indeed, of all instruction, it is necessary that the teacher should be thoroughly conversant with his subject, for his pupils will be prompt to discover his deficiencies, especially in those matters which they intend to avail themselves of afterwards; he should be patient and prudent—never hurrying his pupils or discouraging them by expressions of disappointment at the tardiness of their progress; never assuming in them a knowledge which they do not possess, or leading them on one step in advance until they have made good the ground which they have already traversed. There should also be a constant superintendence of the classes by the managing committee, or some one ap-

pointed to represent them. The Report of the Swansea Mechanics' Institution says,—

"At the commencement of each course of instruction the masters give in their respective classes a sort of inaugural lecture, which is open to all the members of the Institution; after which none but pupils may be present save by special permission. A superintendent is also appointed by the committee, who makes a periodical tabular return of the state of the classes, number of pupils, and their occupations, and has the general direction and supervision of this department."

In those institutions which are fortunately able to afford to their members systematic instruction by means of classes and lectures, the plan of granting CERTIFICATES of proficiency after an examination ought to be adopted, in imitation of the Edinburgh School of Arts. It is greatly to be desired that District Associations of Mechanics' Institutions should acquire sufficient influence, and the individual institutions sufficient funds and popularity, to establish a somewhat uniform system of proceeding, so that the examinations of candidates for certificates might be made under the superintendence of the Association, and the certificate be granted by that body. The Report of the Dundee Watt Institution says:—

"A system of graduation might be adopted with pro-

priety, provided members were regular in their attendance and studious in their habits. The time we hope is not far distant when a DIPLOMA from a Mechanics' Institution will be looked upon with as much respect as the honours of a university."

Until this somewhat sanguine expectation is realised, a Certificate, to have any value, must proceed from a body where systematic instruction is given; and it should, like the Edinburgh certificate, bear on its face an enumeration of the subjects in which the student was examined, and the length of time during which he attended the classes. Thus bestowed, it would have great weight with the young mechanic; it would connect institutions with his immediate wants and with his future career, rendering his connexion with them not only profitable but honourable to him through life. There is scarcely any better method which an employer could adopt for rewarding merit among his apprentices and workmen than by presenting them with a subscription ticket to a Mechanics' Institution. Such a present has often operated very beneficially; and the subscription thus commenced has been cheerfully continued without the employer's aid.

CHAPTER IV.

LIBRARY—COLLECTIONS—EXHIBITIONS—RECREATIONS.

PERSONS unacquainted with books are usually at a loss to select from the mere enumeration of the titles the work which they require. Hence it is of great importance that the Catalogue should contain a brief description of the objects of each work, and its contents. This may be best effected by printing in a smaller type a summary of the principal matters which the table of contents would usually supply to the catalogue-maker's hands.

Upon this subject a report of the Dundee Institution says that:—

"The original arrangement and classification of the books was the work of C. W. Boakes, Esq., Banker. It has been found of great value to the student, as an outline of the contents of all the works in the Library is to be found in the Catalogue."

In the advertisement to the 2nd edition of the Catalogue, Mr. Boakes says:—

"In the Catalogue of the Library which was pub-

lished at the commencement of the Institution, a brief statement of the contents of every book was subjoined to its title. The objects I had in view were:—*First*, the conveying to those members who were not familiar with the technical titles of scientific works a clearer idea of what each volume treated of; and *secondly*, the giving the more advanced student some notion of the different methods of discussing a subject followed by different authors, that thereby he might be enabled to judge which of two or more works on the same branch of knowledge best suited his taste, or was most likely to supply the information of which he was in pursuit."

An excellent classified Catalogue was published in 1840 of the Library of the Metropolitan Literary and Scientific Institution, arranged by Mr. Wm. Radcliff Birt, the Librarian. The following is an extract from the Address which precedes the Catalogue.

"The arrangement of the subjects is alphabetical; this order is, however, departed from in History, Biography, Geography, and Topography, which are so intimately connected as to form one large division. The arrangement adopted in this part of the Catalogue is Geographical, as the habits, manners, and customs of nations are materially affected by those of their neighbours. It is therefore apprehended that the student will find this portion valuable, as *all* the works in the Library that treat on the history of, and are calculated

to illustrate, the particular country which may be the subject of his researches, are brought immediately under his notice. Works treating on some countries, especially those on England, are arranged chronologically. The value of this arrangement will be immediately apparent, when it is considered that it bears the same relation to time as the geographical arrangement does to space. To this portion of the Catalogue an Index is appended, that references to particular works may be facilitated. The scientific portion is arranged alphabetically, but the same advantages are secured as in the Historical department, by each branch of Science being particularized."

The following is a specimen of the Catalogue of the works under the head of—

"ENGLISH HISTORY, CHRONOLOGICALLY ARRANGED;

Contains, general Histories, and those illustrative of particular Periods; also Lives of Eminent Individuals who have been distinguished in English Annals.

	B.C.	A.D.	
586	55	— 1714.	Mackintosh's (Sir James) History of England, vols. 1 to 9
			[Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia.] L.C.C. 1830—1839
645	55	— 1603.	Southey's (Robert, LL.D.) Lives of British Admirals, with the Naval History of England, vols. 1 to 4
			L.C.C. 1833

Vol. 1. Naval History, from Cæsar's Invasion to the Accession of Henry IV.

646 — 2. Naval History, from the Deposition of Richard II. to the Death of Queen Mary—Charles, Lord Howard of Effingham.

647 — 3. George Clifford, Earl of Cumberland — Sir John Hawkins—Sir Francis Drake—Thomas Cavendish, Esq.—Sir Richard Hawkins—Sir Richard Granville.

648 — 4. Robert Devereux, Earl of Essex—Sir Walter Raleigh.

	B.C.	A.D.	
478	55	— 1688.	Hume's (David) History of England, from the Invasion of Julius Cæsar to the Revolution of 1688, 8 vols. 1834
547	55	— 1688.	History of England, contained in Tytler's Universal History, vols. 4, 5, and 6 1835
602	55	— 1483.	Clarke's (Stephen Reynolds) Vestigia Anglicana, or Illustrations of the more interesting and debateable Points in English History, 2 vols. 1826.""

In the Library of the Edinburgh School of Arts we also find that a notice of the principal subjects touched on in each work is affixed to its title in the Catalogue, *e. g.*—

"417. Williamson's Mathematics Simplified and Practically Illustrated by the adaptation of the principal Problems to the ordinary purposes of Life, and, by progressive arrangement, applied to the most familiar objects

in the plainest terms; together with a complete Essay on the Art of Surveying Lands, &c., by simple methods."

The subjoined form of Library Register for recording the circulation of books is adopted with some modifications in several large Institutions. The book should be ruled in spaces about three-quarters of an inch square; each space serves for the record of one loan; and, either the number of lines to be allotted to each work may depend upon its known tendency to circulate, or (to facilitate reference at some sacrifice of space) the number of the work in the library may be made to correspond with that of the *folio* in the register of circulation. The annexed *form* of entries may be thus explained: the title of the work heads its portion of the register; at the corner the upper figures denote the number of the work on the shelves; the letter is the one which distinguishes the *section* of the cases to which the work belongs; and the Roman numerals the number of the shelf. The figures in the space, 29 / 5 / 41, indicate the date 29th May, 1841. The number 50 is that of the member taking the book, and the figure 1 below it means first volume. The return of the book is indicated by crossing out the entry.

1065

LYELL'S GEOLOGY, 4 vols. CVII.

29/5/41 50 1	12/6/41 50 2	

The advantages of this form of register are the facility with which the entries may be made, and the opportunity it gives of ascertaining at once who may be in possession of any book in request.

As a means of occasionally augmenting the Library, it may be suggested to the more opulent parties who feel an interest in any Institution, that they should obtain for it the privilege of purchasing at a reduction of price the books which have been read in the book clubs to which such parties belong;—this would afford a means of introducing some of the best works in modern literature at of course a very slight cost.

COLLECTIONS.—In the Manual for Mechanics' Institutions the subject of collections or museums was fully discussed, and inquiry has tended to confirm the recommendation then given, that if a museum is formed in a Mechanics' Institution, its

object ought to be to illustrate the natural or artificial productions of the place where the institution is placed and its neighbourhood; their geological structure, fossils, plants, birds, and fishes; and the manufactures or the peculiar industry of the inhabitants: thus at the North Staffordshire Institution (at Hanley in the Potteries) there is a most interesting collection displaying the progress of the art of making porcelain. There are beautiful specimens of the manufacture in Wedgewood's time, as well as of foreign china. The collection at Preston has been already mentioned. But these inquiries have likewise given reason to doubt the expediency of attempting to form a museum, unless in extraordinary circumstances, in a Mechanics' Institution. To preserve the objects properly and at the same time to display them adequately require much space and considerable expense in fittings and cases; and if the collection is of any extent it can scarcely be either well maintained or made useful to the members without a person especially appointed to attend to it and explain it.

Of late there have been formed in most towns of any importance, Natural History Museums, which, if open to members of the Mechanics' Institution, as they often are, afford a sufficient substitute for

collections within the Institution, and are probably more useful, because more extensive and more systematic.

MODELS.—This remark, however, does not apply to models, especially working models of machines. These are each perfect in themselves; they scarcely need any explanation; their construction in numerous instances bespeaks their use; the making of them is an excellent exercise of the ingenuity of the mechanic, and they might be almost exclusively the handiwork of the members,—who have hitherto contributed but little in this way towards their institutions, partly perhaps from want of encouragement, partly because they look with indifference upon objects which excite a lively curiosity in others, but are familiarised to themselves by daily use.

EXHIBITIONS.—During the last two years exhibitions of works of art and natural objects have been made at many institutions with various success. That at Derby in 1839 is thus spoken of in the report of that Institution.

"It may be satisfactory to state that the number of contributors was about 400, and that the number of articles amounted to upwards of 5000. It is also worthy of notice that the number of persons admitted to the exhibi-

tion (the visits of the holders of season tickets included) exceeded 96,000; and on reference to the balance-sheet it will be found that the gross total of cash received amounted to 2119*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.* The expenses are 763*l.* 9*s.* 8*d.*, leaving a balance in our favour, to be applied to the liquidation of the debt, of 1355*l.*"

Similar results have generally attended these exhibitions, although there are one or two instances of failure. As occasional lectures on the more popular branches of philosophy were introduced, as machines and models of machines were to be seen in action and were described, few persons could attend these exhibitions without acquiring information, and having either engendered or fostered in them a taste for the contemplation of objects usually confined to the more educated and the wealthier classes.

A correspondent, however, says—

"I am fully convinced that exhibitions at Mechanics' Institutes have their *shady* as well as their sunny side, and to have them *yearly* will, I am persuaded, mar their usefulness. I find that our institution has not yet been able to get their classes all to work; they experienced an interruption, and imbibed a relish for an endless round of pleasurable excitement. That much knowledge was imparted, I allow, but it was like giving young people a holiday, they cannot settle to work again for several days. I do not deprecate holidays, but they may come too

often; so with exhibitions, one in three or four years is quite often enough; beside which, it is not easy to procure articles yearly to get up a good one. . . . Our members appear far more anxious now to get up a ball on Easter Tuesday than to assist in the formation of classes."

There is one point in this letter which deserves peculiar attention, namely, the suspension of the classes during the exhibitions. No essential part of the business of the institution ought to be suspended during an exhibition, with the exception perhaps of the lectures, the place of which is likely to be efficiently supplied by it.

There have been exhibitions at Bristol (in 1836), Sheffield, Newcastle-upon-Tyne, Todmorden, Halifax, Stockport, Derby, Coventry, Louth, Beccles, Nottingham, Liverpool, and Edinburgh. In three cases the exhibitions were productive of loss, in some others of large profit. In a few instances things were exhibited for sale, and a profit was derived from sale of the catalogues.

Recreation.—It is gratifying to observe that much attention has recently been given to the subject of amusements in Mechanics' Institutions. The study of music, especially vocal music, has greatly increased, and concerts have been given in many places and been well attended.

Tea and coffee parties, at rates sufficiently low to be within the working-man's means, have been given occasionally, at which music, a few pleasing philosophical experiments, recitations, and in some places dancing, have been the occupations of the evening. One great advantage of this class of recreations is that they admit of the wives and families partaking of the enjoyment, and thus establish a salutary relation to the domestic pleasures. At one of these coffee parties, held in March, 1840, there were 630 persons present who paid 6*d.* each. The exhibition at Leeds in July, 1839, was made the occasion of a visit from the members of the York Institution to that of Leeds, where they were entertained by the latter, who contemplate visiting York in return. Indeed a lecture upon the Antiquities of York has been given at the Leeds Institution.

On the 3rd of May a similar visit was made by the members of the Gloucester, Cheltenham, and Tewkesbury Institutions, with many of their families, to Birmingham; and as more than 600 persons joined in this excursion, it may be worth while to mention the arrangements which were made.

The distance between Gloucester and Birmingham is 50 miles; a railway is established between

them, and a special train was engaged to convey the party. The price of the tickets for the journey to and fro was 7*s*. 6*d*. for the first, 5*s*. for the second, and 3*s*. 6*d*. for the third class carriages, the issue of tickets being confined to members of the institution, who were divided into companies. Each company had a leader whose name was affixed to the carriage devoted to his party, and nearly the whole body, exceeding 400 in number, went in procession at six o'clock in the morning from the institution to the railway station, preceded by a band; 123 persons joined the party at Cheltenham, and 83 at Tewkesbury.

On their arrival at Birmingham they visited the Philosophical Institution, the Natural History Museum, and some of the manufactories which were open to their inspection. At Messrs. Coles's a medal in commemoration of the event was struck in their presence. At the Mechanics' Institution there was an exhibition of works of art and of objects of Natural History, working models of machinery, and even small machines at work. A lecture was given on voltaic electricity, and in the afternoon refreshment was provided for the party. At six o'clock they re-assembled at the railway station.

This excursion has added 48*l.* to the funds of the Gloucester institution, and perhaps has permanently increased the number of its members. The trouble attending it would have been repaid if it had produced no other benefit than bringing many hundred persons into friendly intercourse, and affording to them at a cheap rate an innocent and exhilarating amusement.

Few amusements would be more beneficial than the introduction of a gymnasium, especially where the members are principally occupied in sedentary pursuits. Public baths too might be established in large towns by the union of many institutions, and probably, if carefully conducted and at a sufficiently low price, might be made a source of profit.

CHAPTER V.

TAXATION—BUILDINGS.

A COMMITTEE of gentlemen at Birmingham have for some time been collecting information concerning the degree in which Mechanics' Institutions are affected by taxation, and bills were prepared to be introduced into parliament, declaring all societies established exclusively for purposes of science, literature, or the fine arts, exempted from local and general taxes.

The London Association of Mechanics' Institutions has at the same time been engaged in framing a bill which, beside relieving Institutions from taxation, will give them the privilege of suing and being sued, will vest their property in their officers for the time being, will enable them to enforce their rules, and will supersede the cumbrous, expensive, and inefficient machinery of a deed of trust. It was hoped that the efforts of the Birmingham Committee and the London Association might have been united, and that one bill

might have been made to accomplish both objects; but it is probable that the London Association will find it expedient to urge their measure upon parliament; and if aided by the local influence of Institutions throughout the country, it is probable that their efforts will be successful.*

The value of education in any of its branches is scarcely yet sufficiently appreciated in this country to render it likely that an attempt would be successful to apply to adult instruction municipal funds, or to obtain for that object any parliamentary grant.

Among the difficulties which young Institutions have to encounter in the outset, that of obtaining a suitable building is the hardest to surmount. As, however, without a tolerably convenient suite of rooms for carrying on the business of the several departments of the Institution with comfort, it can never make much progress, committees have in many instances felt compelled to procure this accommodation at the cost of incurring a large debt.

Various devices have been resorted to for raising a building fund, and of those which have come before us the following is perhaps the best:—

* See Appendix IV. for abstract of Bill.

"*Outline of a Plan for the Erection or Purchase of a Building for the York Institute.*

"1. That 2000*l.* shall be raised by donations, and in shares of 1*l.* each.

"2. That the donations shall be invested in shares for the benefit of the Institute, in the names of the Trustees of the Institute.

"3. That, when half of the said sum has been subscribed for, the committee shall be empowered to procure plans and estimates, and to purchase a plot of land or building, to be conveyed to trustees for the purposes of the Institute;—and that a meeting of the shareholders shall be forthwith called, at which twenty-one trustees and a committee of seven shareholders, to superintend the erection of the building, shall be chosen, and a plan and estimate for the same agreed upon.

"4. That such a sum of money shall be raised upon mortgage of the building for the completion thereof, and for other purposes, as shall be agreed upon at a special meeting of shareholders convened for the purpose.

"5. That a rent not exceeding 2½ per cent. upon the shares shall be paid to the trustees of the building by the committee of the Institute, for the use of the building for the purposes of the Institute; but that the trustees shall have power to let the Public Hall and Class Rooms, when not occupied by the Institute, for the benefit of the shareholders. Provided if in any year the whole amount of moneys received by the trustees from the above sources, over and above all out-goings, shall

exceed 6*l.* per cent. upon each share, such excess shall be paid over to the trustees of the Institute, to form a fund applicable to the gradual liquidation of the shares.*

"6. That the trustees of the Institute shall have the privilege of purchasing of the shareholders any number of shares not exceeding fifty in one year—except with the consent of the shareholders—for the benefit of the Institute; the number of shares to be so purchased shall be declared, and be determined by lot, at the annual meeting.

"7. That in the first week in February in each year a general meeting of the shareholders shall be convened by public advertisement, at which a statement of accounts shall be presented by the trustees of the building, and such other business transacted as the majority shall determine.

"8. No shareholder shall vote who has held his shares less than three months previous to the meeting. All questions shall be decided by a majority of votes, at the rate of one vote for every shareholder of and under 5*l.*, and an additional vote for every additional 5*l.* subscribed for.

"9. That any trustee may resign his office, and shall thereupon be indemnified from all claims on account of

* This provision for letting the hall and rooms by the building trustees seems liable to objection. At most Institutions there are occasional as well as periodical uses for the rooms; and it would be difficult to avoid clashing arrangements unless the management were entirely in one body.

the trust, and his place supplied by a new trustee, to be chosen by the shareholders.

" 10. That any person wishing to dispose of his shares shall first offer them to the trustees of the Institute for one month.

" 11. That a special meeting may be convened whenever required by five trustees or fifty shareholders.

" 12. That four-fifths of the shareholders in number and value may order the land and building to be sold, and the proceeds divided rateably amongst the shareholders.

" 13. That an instalment of one shilling shall be paid on each share when subscribed for, and afterwards on the first Tuesday in every month, to the treasurer, who shall be elected by the shareholders.

" 14. Any person omitting to pay an instalment for two months after the same becomes due shall forfeit his shares, unless he can justify such omission to the satisfaction of the trustees.

" 15. No shareholder shall be liable for any sum exceeding the amount of his shares.

" 16. That, if the said building be not commenced within twelve months, the moneys paid on each share shall be repaid to the shareholders."

APPENDIX I.

LIST

OF

MECHANICS' AND SIMILAR INSTITUTIONS.

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Alnwick . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	George Tate.
Ashton-under-Line and Dukinfield.	,, ,,	
Banbury . . .	,, ,,	
Barnsley . . .	,, ,,	
Barnstaple . .	,, ,,	
Bath	Literary and Scientific Institution.	R. Mills.
Beccles . . .	Literary Institution . .	W. E. Crowfoot.
Belfast . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Belper	,, ,,	Herbert Holland.
Beverley . . .	,, ,,	
Bilston . . .	,, ,,	
Birmingham . .	,, ,,	James Halliday.
,, ,,	Athenæum	E. Pitman.
Bolton . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	C. J. Darburton.
Boston . . .	,, ,,	
Bradford . . .	,, ,,	Jos. Furrar.
Bridgewater . .	,, ,,	J. C. Gillard.
Bridport . . .	,, ,,	James Williams.
Bristol . . .	,, ,,	Richard Smith.
Bury St. Edmunds	,, ,,	
Bury, Lancashire	,, ,,	
Bungay . . .	Lyceum.	
Calton, Mile End.	Mechanics' Institution.	
Calne	,, ,,	
Cambridge . .	,, ,,	H. Hemington.

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Carlisle . . .	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Institution.	
Cardiff . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Chatham and Rochester.	Literary and Philosophical Institution.	
Cheltenham . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Chester . . .	,, ,,	R. Nicholson.
Chesterfield . .	Literary and Philosophic Society.	J. Atkinson.
Chippenham . .	Literary Institution . . .	Edw. Bradbury.
Chertsey . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Wm. Kempson.
Chichester . .	Literary and Philosophical Society.	Dr. Forbes.
,, ,,	Mechanics' Institution . .	Wm. Pescod.
Clitheroe . . .	,, ,,	J. Bold.
Clackheaton, near Leeds.	,, ,,	Wm. Anderton.
Cockermouth . .	,, ,,	
Colchester . .	,, ,,	
Coventry . . .	,, ,,	J. Gulson, jun. Edw. Cooper.
,, ,,	Society for Diffusing Religious and Useful Knowledge.	
Cowes, Ryde . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Corsham . . .	,, ,,	C. F. Halloran.
Darlington . .	,, ,,	
Darwen . . .	,, ,,	S. T. Potter.
Derby	,, ,,	Thomas Madely.
Devonport and Stonehouse.	Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Devizes . . .	,, ,,	W. Cunnington.
Doncaster . . .	Lyceum	Richard Ridgill.
Dover	Philosophic Institution . .	John Friend.
Dunbar . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Wm. Robertson.
Dundee . . .	Watt Institution . . .	Thomas Dick.
Dunse	Mechanics' Institution . .	J. Cunningham.
Durham . . .	Mechanics' Library.	
Edinburgh . .	School of Arts	Andrew Fyfe.
Eaton	Subscription Library.	
Evesham . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Herbert West.
Gateshead . . .	,, ,,	Jos. Andrews.
Glasgow . . .	,, ,,	Wm. Ambrose.
Gloucester . .	,, ,,	
Gomersal . . .	Philosophic Society.	
Grantham . . .	,, ,,	Thomas Winter.
Guernsey . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	J. Margaund.

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Hastings and St. Leonard's.	Mechanics' Institution . .	John Banks.
Hansworth . .	Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.	
Hanley, Potteries.	North Staffordshire Museum and Potteries Mechanics' Institution.	J. B. Davis.
Halifax . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Wm. Corke.
Hayle	Reading Association.	
Hertford . . .	Literary and Philosophical Institution.	G. A. Towers.
,, ,,		
Hereford . . .	,, ,,	Charles Nash.
Hexham . . .	,, ,,	
Henham	,, ,,	
Hinckley . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Horncastle . .	Society for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.	T. Overton.
Horsham . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	John Honywood.
Hull	,, ,,	Richard Webb.
Huddersfield . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Huntingdon . .	Literary Institution . . .	Robert Fox.
Ipswich . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Jonathan Carver.
Keighley, Yorkshire	,, ,,	
Kettering . . .	,, ,,	
Kidderminster .	Mechanics' Library.	
,, ,,	News Room.	
Kingsbridge, Devonshire.	Mechanics' Institution.	
Kingston . . .	,, ,,	
Lancaster . . .	,, ,,	
Launceston . .	,, ,,	
Leeds	,, ,,	F. Plint.
Leicester . . .	,, ,,	J. Burton.
Lewes	,, ,,	H. Browne.
Leamington . .	,, ,,	George Adams.
Lincoln and Lincolnshire.	,, ,,	
Liskeard . . .	Society for Acquirement of Knowledge.	
Liverpool . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	W. B. Hodgson.
,, ,,	Brougham Institution.	
,, ,,	Northern Literary and Scientific Institution.	Henry Dircks.
,, ,,	Lyceum, Bold-street.	
Longton, Cumberl.	Mechanics' Institution.	
Louth	,, ,,	

LONDON.

Institutions in London and its Neighbourhood.

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Aldersgate-street .	City of London Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Brentford . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	J. F. Bontems.
Brook-street, New-road.	Society for Practical Knowledge.	T. Claxton.
Brunswick-square.	Reading Rooms.	
City of Westminster	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution.	George F. Knox.
Croydon . . .	,, ,,	Robert Russell.
Deptford . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	James Russell.
Eastern—88, Hackney-road.	Literary and Scientific Institution.	Wm. Earles.
Eastern—Commercial-road.	,, ,,	
Finsbury . . .	Discussion Society, 22, Finsbury-square.	
,, ,,	Mutual Instruction Society, South Place.	W. J. Traice.
Greenwich. . .	Society for the Acquisition and Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.	David Bass.
Hammersmith .	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution.	P. T. Lemaitre.
Hampstead . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Hatcham, near Greenwich.	Mechanics' Institution . .	George Machell.
Highgate . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Islington . . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Kensington . .	,, ,,	
Kentish Town .	Mutual Improvement Society.	
Lambeth, North-place.	Mutual Instruction Society .	C. Thomas.
London . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	A. M'Farlane.
Mary-le-bone . .	Literary and Philosophic Institution.	

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Metropolitan . .	Literary and Philosophic Institution, Salvador House, Bishopsgate-street.	G. L. Olding.
Peckham . . .	Literary and Philosophic Institution.	H. Hersee.
Poplar	,, ,,	J. Bateman.
Richmond . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	J. S. Alpenny.
,, ,,	Literary and Philosophic Institution.	R. Brewer.
Sloane-street . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	M. Zaba.
Southwark . .	Ditto, Bridge-house, Newington Causeway.	W. H. Barber.
Stratford and Bow	Mechanics' Institution.	
Stepney . . .	Athenæum.	
Tottenham and Edmonton.	Mechanics' and Literary Institution.	Edwin Hill.
Tower-street, Great	Mutual Instruction Society .	C. Thomas.
Tower Hamlets .	Chemical and Philosophical Society, 81, Shoreditch.	,, ,,
Western—Leicester-square	Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Woolwich . . .	Institution for the Advancement of Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Knowledge.	E. L. Burnett.

Lymington . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	D. E. Ford.
Macclesfield . .	Useful Knowledge Society.	H. J. Dye.
Maidstone . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Samuel Kershaw.
Mansfield . . .	,, ,,	
Manchester . .	,, ,,	
,, ,,	Lyceum, Great Ancoats-street.	
,, ,,	,, Salford.	
,, ,,	,, Chorlton-upon-Medlock.	
,, ,,		
,, ,,	Athenæum	E. Worthington.
Malmesbury . .	Mechanics' Institution.	

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Merthyr Tydvil .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Monmouth . .	Useful Knowledge Society.	
Morpeth . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Math. Soulsby.
Neath	Literary and Scientific Institution.	Richard Smith.
Newcastle-under-Lyme.	,, ,,	F. Crewe.
Newcastle-upon-Tyne.	Literary, Scientific, and Mechanical Institution.	
Newcastle-under-Lyne.	Natural History and Philosophic Society.	
Newport, Isle of Wight.	Mechanics' Institution . .	Robert Bryant.
Newport Pagnel .	,, ,,	
Newark . . .	,, ,,	H. W. Brooke.
Nottingham . .	,, ,,	
Northampton . .	,, ,,	Thos. Walesby.
,, ,,	Society for Diffusing Religious and Useful Knowledge.	
Norwich . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
North Shields . .	,, ,,	D. D. Main.
,, ,,	Literary and Philosophical Institution.	
Oldham . . .	Lyceum	J. G. Blackburn.
Otley	Useful Instruction Society.	
Oswestry, Shropshire.	Mechanics' Institution.	
Peterborough . .	,, ,,	A. Shepheard.
Plymouth . . .	,, ,,	J. Therswall.
,, ,,	Athenæum.	
Portsmouth . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Preston . . .	,, ,,	A. Halliday.
Pudsey . . .	,, ,,	David Scott.
Reading . . .	,, ,,	M. Maurice.
Redruth . . .	Literary Society.	
Rochdale . . .	,, ,,	E Hereford.
Ross	Mental Improvement Society	T. S. Smith.
Ripon	Mechanics' Institution.	
Rye	,, ,,	
Ryde and Cowes .	,, ,,	
Salisbury . . .	,, ,,	M. P. Harris.
Scarborough . .	,, ,,	

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Sherborne . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Sheffield . . .	,, ,,	Henry Rogers.
South Shields . .	,, ,,	
Shrewsbury . .	,, ,,	P. Horsman.
Stalybridge . .	,, ,,	D. Chatham.
Stockton . . .	,, ,,	C. Walker.
Stockport . . .	,, ,,	J. Middleton.
Stourbridge . .	,, ,,	Henry Green.
Southampton . .	,, ,,	George Jacob.
Sowerbybridge, Yorkshire.	,, ,,	T. Baxendale.
Staines . . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	F. Curtis.
Stroud . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Sunderland . .	,, ,,	James Hemsley.
Swansea . . .	,, ,,	John Borren.
Tamworth . .	Library.	
Tavistock . . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	
Taunton . . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Teignmouth . .	,, ,,	John Fortescue.
Tewkesbury . .	,, ,,	
Thornton, near Bradford.	,, ,,	J. H. Wilson.
Todmorden, Yorkshire.	,, ,,	Wm. Maddock.
Tunbridge Wells .	Society for the Cultivation of Literature and Science.	
,, ,,	The Institute	H. Colbran.
Trowbridge . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Charles Thomas.
Uttoxeter . . .	Society for the Diffusion of Knowledge.	Robert Blurton.
Walsall, North Staffordshire.	Mechanics' Institution.	
Warminster . .	,, ,,	Charles Fox.
Warrington . .	Lecture Society.	
Wellingborough .	Mechanics' Institution . .	J. H. Bearn.
West Bromwich .	Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.	G. Tyndale, jun.
Whitehaven . .	Mechanics' Institution.	
Whitby . . .	Literary and Philosophic Society.	Richard Ripley.

Place.	Institution.	Correspondent usually, but not always, the Secretary.
Windsor . . .	Mutual Improvement Society.	
Wisbeach . . .	Mechanics' Institution . .	Joseph Adams.
Wolverhampton .	,, ,,	
Worcester . . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	T. R. Hill.
,, ,,	City and County Library.	
Worthing . . .	Literary and Scientific Institution.	J. Bassett.
York	Institute of Popular Science	J. H. Fox.
Yeadon, near Leeds	Mechanics' Institution.	
Yeovil	,, ,,	

APPENDIX II.

LIST OF ASSOCIATIONS.

BRISTOL ASSOCIATION.

Secretary.—Rich. Smith, Esq., Mechanics' Institution, Bristol.

Bath Mechanics' Institution.
Bristol do.
Bridgewater Literary and Scientific Institution.
Trowbridge do.
Warminster Mechanics' Institution.

LONDON ASSOCIATION OF INSTITUTIONS FOR ADULT INSTRUCTION.

Secretary.—Thomas Coates, Esq., Lincoln's-Inn Fields, London.

Barnet Mechanics' Institution.
Brentford do.
Croydon Literary and Scientific Institution.
Deptford Mechanics' Institution.
Eastern Literary and Scientific Institution.
Do. do.
Finsbury Mutual Instruction Society.
Greenwich Society for Acquisition and Diffusion of Useful Knowledge.
Hammersmith Literary and Scientific and Mechanics' Institution.
Hatcham Mechanics' Institution.
Lambeth Mutual Instruction Society.
London Mechanics' Institution.
Metropolitan Literary and Scientific Institution.

Peckham Literary and Scientific Institution.
Poplar do.
Richmond do.
Do. Mechanics' Institution.
Southwark Literary Society.
Sloane Street Literary and Scientific Institution.
Society for Practical Knowledge.
Do. do. Design.
Tottenham and Edmonton Literary Institution.
Tower Street Mutual Instruction Society.
Tower Hamlets Chemical and Philosophical Society.
City of Westminster Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution.
Woolwich Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.

MANCHESTER DISTRICT ASSOCIATION OF LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC INSTITUTIONS.

Secretary.—Edward Herford, Esq., Princess-street, Manchester.
Ashton and Dukinfield Mechanics' Institution.
Bolton do.
Bury do.
Darwen do.
Manchester Athenæum.
Do. Salford Lyceum.
Do. Ancoats Street Lyceum.
Do. Chorlton Lyceum.
Mosley Mechanics' Institution.
Oldham Lyceum.
Preston Institution for Diffusion of Knowledge.
Rochdale Literary and Philosophical Society.
Stalybridge Mechanics' Institution.
Stockport do.
Warrington do.
Wigan do.

MIDLAND COUNTIES LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC ASSOCIATION—CENTRAL PLACE, BIRMINGHAM.

Secretaries.—James Holliday, Esq., Mechanics' Institution, and Edward Pitman, Esq., Athenæum, Birmingham.
Birmingham Athenæum.

Birmingham Mechanics' Institution.
Coventry do.
Derby do.
Grantham Literary and Philosophical Society.
Handsworth Observatory.
Hinckley Mechanics' Institution.
Kidderminster News-room.
Leicester Mechanics' Institution.
Newark do.
Nottingham do.
Stourbridge do.
Tewkesbury do.
West Bromwich do.
Worcester City and County Library.

SUSSEX ASSOCIATION—CENTRAL PLACE, LEWES.

Secretary.—Henry Browne, Esq., Lewes.
Chichester Mechanics' Institution.
Hastings do.
Horsham do.
Lewes do.
Rye do.
Worthing Literary and Scientific Institution.

WEST RIDING UNION OF MECHANICS' INSTITUTES—CENTRAL PLACE, LEEDS.

Secretary.—Thomas Plint, Esq., Leeds.
Barnsley Mechanics' Institution.
Clackheaton do.
Halifax Mechanics' Institution.
Keighley do.
Leeds do.
Ripon do.
Otley Useful Instruction Society.
Sowerby-bridge Mechanics' Institution.
Todmorden do.
York Institute of Popular Science.

SUMMARY

* Before the Name indicates that
† Indicates

Place, Name, and Date of Foundation.	Date of Report.	Population of Town.	Members.			
			Mechanics.	Others.	Under 21 years.	Total.
Alnwick Scientific and Mechanics' Institution, 1824.	1840	6,788	71	80	52	151
†*Ashton and Dukinfield Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	1840	33,000	105	86	36	191
*Bath Mechanics' Institution, 1838	1840	50,802	75	325	131	400
*Belper Mechanics' Institution .	1840	7,890	..	..	..	128
*Beverley Mechanics' Institution	1840	8,302	..	..	..	200
†*Bolton Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	1840	43,396	136	144	..	280
*Birmingham Mechanics' Inst..1826	1840	146,986	405	82	240	487
†*Ditto Athenæum. 1839 . . .	1841	..	..	..	30	360
Beccles Public Literary and Scientific Institution, 1835.	1840	3,862	..	..	..	194
*Bradford Mechanics' Institution, 1832.	1840	3,624	..	..	..	483
†*Bridport Mechanics', 1831 . .	1840	4,242	20	91	..	111
Bristol Association. *Broadmead Mechanics' Institution.	1840	103,886	50	172	36	222
Bristol Association. Bridgwater Literary and Scientific Institution, 1839.	..	7,807	..	..	..	112
Bristol Association. Neath	1840	4,043	..	..	..	..
Bristol Association. *†Swansea, 1839 . . .	..	13,256	180	95	..	275
Bristol Association. *Trowbridge Literary and Scientific Institution, 1839.	1840	11,000	..	..	..	65
Bristol Association. Warminster Mechanics' Institution, 1839.	..	..	..	..	..	266
Boston Mechanics' Institution .	..	13,000	..	..	..	150
*West Bromwich Institution for Advancement of Knowledge.	..	..	..	..	..	120
*Bury Mechanics' Institution, 1837	1840	20,000	43	85	34	128
Calton, Mile-end, and Bridgeton Mechanics' Institution .	1840	28,000	..	..	..	..
Cambridge Mechanics' Institution	1840	20,917	..	..	5	429
*Chester Mechanics' Institution, 1834.	..	21,363	90	110	..	200
*Chichester Mechanics' Institution.	..	8,270	80	270	110	350
Chippenham Literary and Scientific Society.	..	5,270	..	..	..	71
Corsham Literary and Scientific Institution, 1839.	..	..	..	..	..	52
†*Coventry Mechanics' Institution, 1828.	..	27,070	45	236	64	281
*Chatham and Rochester Mechanics' Institution, 1836.	..	37,000	..	..	41	130
*†Clackheaton	..	..	20	44	25	64
*Darwen Mechanics' Institution, 1839.	1840	12,000	128	42	50	170

OF REPORTS.

the Institution has a Building.
Classes.

Subscriptions.		Lectures.		Library.		Remarks.
Rates per Annum.	Annual Amount with Donations.	No. in Year.	Average Attendance.	No. of Vols.	No. sent out.	
	£. s. d.					
4s. to 8s.	51 6 0	8	40	1328	5,135	Will have lectures monthly.
5s. to 21s.	131 6 0	20	120	764	..	Ditto Concerts.
..	132 13 0	9	bad.	..	6,854	Has a Museum.
6s. to 20s.	..	7	80	375	1,257	
4s. to 10s.	..	24	good.	630	1,000	Has Museum; have ground to build on.
6s. to 21s.	181 7 6	5	..	2252	..	Apparatus; rent 2 buildings.
12s. to 21s.	411 0 0	20	good.	3000	..	One Exhibition.
10s. 6d. to 25s.	530 0 0	..	..	1200		
10s. to 20s.	..	2	..	1500	..	Borrow a Library-room.
6s. to 10s.	..	12	200	2630	16,000	Intend to have an Exhibition.
8s. to 21s.	64 10 0	2	150	1050	532	Building given them.
..	167 15 0	17	100	1100	1,050	Had a Concert; 402 persons attended.
8s.	96 0 0	18	20	140	400	
..	52 10 0	4	good.	..	..	Has a Museum.
8s.	34 0 0	5	..	100		
10s. to 20s.	72 12 0	18	150	500		
8s. to 10s.	114 0 0	..	..	356	1,600	
8s.	..	..	..	300		
12s. to 20s.	112 0 0	12	80	800	3,000	Museum.
10s.	125 0 0	22	..	713	3,421	
5s.	..	4	250	255		
4s., 10s., 21s.	..	..	250	1310		
10s., 20s.	105 0 0	4	..	1820	4,503	
..	105 0 0	10	..	1500	6,000	
8s. to	82 4 8	10	200	233	231	Gratuitous Lectures.
3s.	26 10 0	6	good.	120	..	Volumes are mostly loans.
10s. to 20s.	179 8 9	4	fair.	1052	3,535	Had 2 Exhibitions.
3s. to 6s.	..	7	..	409	3,000	
10s.	50 0 0	1	80	453	1,274	
..	335 0 0	20	300	830	1,536	Rent a House.

Place, Name, and Date of Foundation.	Date of Report.	Population of Town.	Members.			
			Mechanics.	Others.	Under 21 Years.	Total.
†Derby Mechanics' Institution, 1826	..	23,600	..	..	195	745
*Dover Museum and Philosophical Institution, 1836.	..	12,000	..	..	..	100
*Devizes Literary and Scientific Institution, 1836.	1840	4,500	94	87	42	181
*Doncaster Lyceum, 1834 . .	..	10,800	..	..	..	110
*Dunbar Mechanics' Institution, 1824.	1840	5,000	40	89	..	129
*Dundee Watt Institution, 1824 .	1840	45,355	..	..	..	670
Dunse Mechanics' Institution, Jan. 1840.	1840	..	60	24	14	84
Evesham Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution, 1837.	1840	3,991	70	60	..	130
Gateshead Mechanics' Institution, 1836.	1840	20,000	72	193	..	265
†Glasgow Mechanics' Institution, 1823.	1840	202,000	..	..	..	572
*Guernsey Mechanics' Institution, 1832.	1840	..	..	..	40	289
*Hastings and St. Leonard's Mechanics' Institution, 1833.	1840	10,000	60	168	22	228
*Henham Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	1840	6,000	30	90	58	120
*Hereford Mechanics' Institution,	1840	10,200	100	167	..	267
Horncastle Mechanics' Institution.	1840	4,000	..	..	..	120
Horsham Mechanics' Institution, 1829.	..	5,000	..	..	..	62
Huntingdon Literary and Scientific, 1840.	1840	5,500	..	..	..	60
Ipswich Literary and Scientific, 1825.	1840	20,500	..	..	..	460
Lancaster Mechanics' and Apprentices' Institution, 1824.	..	12,700	..	..	..	193
Leicester Mechanics' Institution, 1833.	1840	..	..	..	..	536
Lewes Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	1840	..	103	95	..	198
Louth Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	..	..	149	81	..	230
†*Liverpool Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	..	..	..	..	..	3460
Liverpool Northern Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	480
*Longton Mechanics' Institution, 1840.	..	..	59	74	..	133
*Leamington Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	64	..	40	64
*Maidstone Mechanics' Institution, 1837.	..	..	124	76	..	200

Subscriptions.		Lectures.		Library.		Remarks.
Rates per Annum.	Annual Amount with Donations.	No. in Year.	Average Attendance.	No. of Vols.	No. sent out.	
	£. s. d.					
6s. to 10s.	284 11 0	18	good.	2500	well circulated.	
21s.	..	12	70	300		
4s. to 10s.	73 0 0	13	100	540	1,700	Has Museum — 11 Lectures gratis.
7s. to 14s.	35 0 0	..	..	..	..	Ditto.
1s. 6d. to 3s.	13 11 0	3	good.	965	1,420	Lectures gratuitous.
..	135 6 0	8	500	1700	7,035	Has Museum. 147*l.* 15*s.* received for Building-fund.
2s. 6d.	..	..	95	..	..	No Library at present.
8s. to 20s.	80 0 0	8	80	390	well circulated.	Members will not attend Classes.
8s. to 10s.	..	2	good.	1730	3,802	Exhibition in preparation.
..	174 4 6	137	280	..	11,655	195*l.* 10*s.* received for admission to Lectures.
6s. to 12s.	95 0 0	12	..	2865	6,000	Has a Museum and Model-room.
8s.	..	12	150	500	3,600	Lectures generally gratuitous.
4s. to 8s.	13 0 0	20	150	1300	3,562	Lectures gratuitous.
3s. to 10s.	..	..	..	190	..	Lately established.
5s. to 10s.	55 0 0	..	..	860	1,800	Lectures occasionally. Bazaar cleared 74*l.*
4s. to 8s.	21 0 0	7	not good.	325		
6s. to 20s.	..	1	500			
..	198 0 0	20	..	3000	..	Has a Museum.
..	60 0 0	2	..	1697		
8s.	244 0 0	8	good.	1600		
6s. and 8s.	95 0 0	9	200	1593	2,700	
..	90 0 0	24	200	1300	2,861	Has a Museum. Gratuitous Lectures.
21s.	3229 0 0	25	..	6000	60,000	Has a Museum. 10*l.* 10*s.* makes a Life Subscriber. There is a separate Fund for the School. 375*l.* annual Subscriptions.
..	..	100	150	500	4,000	15 Lectures gratuitous.
..	43 9 0	..	..	138		
8s.	..	4	good.	230	..	Lectures gratis.
4s. to 8s.	23 0 0	15	good.	700	2,300	Has a Museum. A Building proposed.

Place, Name, and Date of Foundation.	Date of Report.	Population of Town.	Members.			
			Mechanics.	Others.	Under 21 Years.	Total.
†*Manchester Athenæum, 1835 .	..	50,000	..	..	..	1350
Manchester Lyceum, 1838 . .	1840	..	..	..	..	600
Morpeth Mechanics' Institution	1840	..	..	..	..	163
*Newark Mechanics' Institution .	1840	..	..	..	..	203
*Newcastle-under-Lyme Literary and Scientific Institution, 1836.	1839	..	..	..	..	165
Newport, Isle of Wight . . .	1840	..	..	..	..	120
Newport Pagnel	..	24,000	10	60	40	70
*Northampton Society for the Diffusion of Religious and Univer-al Knowledge, 1839.	..	..	..	..	..	..
North Shields	..	..	..	..	..	130
Peterborough Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	110
*Pottery Mechanics' Institution, Hanley, 1836.	..	70,000	177	103	..	280
†*Preston Institution for the Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, 1828.	..	55,000	102	354	53	456
Pudsey Mechanics' Institution .	1840	..	..	..	..	95
Reading Philosophical Society .	..	..	..	..	..	109
†*Rochdale Scientific and Philosophical Society, 1833.	..	30,000	..	..	21	165
Ross Mental Improvement Society, 1838.	1840	..	..	..	..	50
Rochester Philosophical and Literary Institution, 1827.	1839	..	..	..	..	..
Salisbury Mechanics' Institution	1840	..	40	194	26	234
*Sheffield Mechanics' Institution, 1832.	1840	100,000	..	..	..	490
*Shropshire Mechanics' Institution, Shrewsbury, 1825.	1840	..	..	..	..	291
Southampton Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	400
*Staly Bridge Mechanics' Institution, 1825.	1840	20,000	41	30	4	71
*Stockport Mechanics' Institution, 1834.	1840	60,000	200	254	..	454
*Stockton Mechanics' Institution	1840	..	..	..	..	273
*Stourbridge Mechanics' Institution, 1835.	1840	..	30	100	20	130
Sunderland Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	100	164	..	264
*Swansea Mechanics' Institution, 1839.	1840	..	180	95	..	275
Tewkesbury Literary and Scientific Institution.	1839	..	..	..	..	110
Tunbridge Wells Society . .	..	10,000	..	..	..	90
Tunbridge Wells Institution	1839	..	..	..	..	54

Subscriptions.		Lectures.		Library.		Remarks.
Rates per Annum.	Annual Amount with Donations.	No. in Year.	Average Attendance.	No. of Vols.	No. sent out.	
	£. s. d.					
..	1421 0 0	11	..	4360	51,000	Had Concerts.
8s.	275 0 0	42	..	1200	2,600	
..	55 0 0	..	..	1344	..	No Lectures; 1d. charged for each Novel sent out.
..	76 0 0	4	good.	1026	well circulated.	
..	95 0 0	4	good.	go	od.	A Museum.
8s.	..	12	..	1020	21,000	A Member can take a friend to Lectures.
..	26 12 0	8	80	300		
4s. to 20s.	..	10	..	..	..	A Museum.
8s.	..	..	..	1000		
8s. to 20s.	43 0 0	10	..	683	1,203	A Museum.
21s.	88 0 0	6	140	1382	36,000	Population includes the whole Potteries.
6s. 6d. and 10s. 6d.	75 0 0	9	..	2875	..	28l. collected for a Museum.
..	28 10 0	..	..	964	2,572	Members are mostly Weavers.
21s.	..	19	..	..	..	A Museum. The Lectures in the Town-hall.
10s.	93 0 0	6	good.	130	..	Exhibition in 1839.
4s.	..	4	good.	90	312	
20s.	162 0 0	4	bad.	2300	2,000	A Museum.
8s.	85 0 0	20	125	1000	2,000	At Lectures on Music 800 attended.
8s. to 21s.	204 0 0	12	500	none.	..	A Museum; had 2 exhibitions.
..	131 0 0	12	90	928	5,655	
4s. to 8s.	150 0 0	30	..	1000		
12s.	65 0 0	8	good.	374	1,446	A Museum. Rent Rooms.
8s. to 21s.	129 0 0	6	..	1451	7,153	Forming a Museum. Rent a Building.
4s. to 10s.	58 0 0	16	55	571	1,644	550l. collected for building.
..	150 0 0	19	160	160	3,900	One Soirée.
8s.	160 0 0	15	..	500	3,500	
8s.	34 0 0	5	..	100	..	Lectures gratis. Library does not circulate yet.
5s. to 10s.	123 0 0	12	..	200		
21s. to 31s. 6d.	125 0 0	20	..	500		
5s. to 10s.	..	8	125	..	..	No Library.

	Places, Names, and Date of Foundation.	Date of Report.	Population of Towns.	Members. Mechanics.	Others.	Under 21 Years.	Total.
	†Warrington Lecture Society, 1836	..	20,000	..	..	..	70
	Wellingborough Society for promoting Science, 1832.	1840	..	21	55	..	76
	Windsor	1840	..	..	..	..	87
	Wisbeach	..	..	46	55	..	101
	Worcester Literary and Scientific Institution, 1829.	..	..	..	..	..	210
	Worthing Institution, 1838 . .	..	..	..	..	..	..
	Yeovil Mechanics' Institution, 1838.	1840	..	..	..	..	40
West Riding Union.	York Mechanics' Institution, 1827.	..	..	170	234	119	404
	Halifax Mechanics' Institution.	1840	34,500	100	305	40	405
	†Keighley Mechanics' Institution.	..	12,000	..	..	..	100
	†*Leeds Mechanics' Institution.	..	123,500	..	..	..	268
	Otley Mechanics' Institution.	..	3,200	14	26	5	40
	Ripon Mechanics' Institution.	..	5,700	42	111	67	52
	Sowerby Bridge . . .	1840	6,500	..	..	..	153
	Todmorden	1840	..	..	..	..	153
	Pudsey	..	..	..	..	..	126

Subscriptions.		Lectures.		Library.		Remarks.
Rates per Annum.	Annual Amount with Donations.	No. in Year.	Average Attendance.	No. of Vols.	No. sent out.	
	£. s. d.					
..	142 0 0	6	174			
6s.	..	4	110	622	1,062	A News-room, 15s. per Ann. extra.
10s.	..	..	..	300	all circulate.	
8s. to 20s.	92 0 0	6	200	175	ditto.	
..	125 0 0	7	350	1400		
..	162 0 0	13	..	516		
6s. to 10s.	..	9				
6s. to 20s.	162 0 0	54	185	1500	7,800	One Course paid for.
5s. to 8s.	177 0 0	9	200	1948	11,134	One Exhibition.
6s. and 8s.	40 0 0	5	..	1022	2,209	
8s. to 10s.	150 0 0	..	..	1553	6,180	One Exhibition, by which 3400l. was taken, and 1800l. cleared.
5s. to 20s.	17 0 0					
6s. to 10s.	33 0 0	3	..	400	532	One Exhibition, 591l.
5s to 8s.	52 0 0	13	100	582	2,153	
6s. to 12s.	53 0 0					
..	28 0 0	..	..	964	2,572	

Name, Place, and Date of Foundation.	Date of Report.	Population of Town.	Members.			
			Mechanics.	Others.	Under 21 Years.	Total.
Brentford Mechanics' Institution	1840	..	..	..	..	274
*Eastern Literary and Scientific Institution, Hackney-road, 1825.	1840	..	..	..	..	157
*Greenwich Society for Acquiring and Diffusion of Useful Knowledge, 1837.	1840	..	33	299	..	332
Hammersmith Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution, 1837.	1840	..	..	..	..	300
*Hexham Literary and Scientific Institution.	..	..	40	160	..	200
Highgate Literary and Scientific Institution.	1839	..	..	..	..	189
*†Islington Literary and Scientific Institution, 1833.	..	..	..	..	..	530
†*London Mechanics' Institution, 1823.	1840	..	800	344	168	1144
Mary-le-bone Literary and Scientific Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	447
*Metropolitan Literary and Scientific Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	367
†Peckham Literary and Scientific Institution, 1838.	1840	..	..	..	..	110
*Poplar Institution for Mutual Instruction and Promotion of Literature and Science.	..	..	..	..	..	..
Richmond Literary and Scientific Institution.	..	..	..	..	17	118
*Richmond Mechanics' Institution.	1840	..	..	..	..	100
*Society for Practical Knowledge, 1839.	1840	..	..	..	..	54
Tottenham and Edmonton Literary and Scientific Institution.	..	..	33	75	1	108
†Tower-street Mutual Instruction Society, 1836.	1840	..	35	33	10	78
†* Westminster (City of) Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institution.	1841	..	200	..	..	436
*Woolwich Mechanics' Institution.	..	..	40	140	..	180
*Chemical and Philosophical Society, 241, Shoreditch.	1841	..	..	..	..	45
Western Literary and Scientific Institution, Leicester-square.	1840	..	..	..	..	400

ASSOCIATION.

Subscriptions.		Lectures.		Library.		Remarks.
Rates per Annum.	Annual Amount with Donations.	No. in Year.	Average Attendance.	No. of Vols.	No. sent out.	
	£. s. d.					
6s. to 20s.	..	26	225	900	6900	
12s to 21s.	..	20	..	1282	6250	
10s. to 20s.	..	56	250	600	..	Museum forming.
10s. to 20s.	164 0 0	5	..	1500		
..	50 0 0	10	..	1300	4000	Rent a Building.
..	185 0 0	21	..	717	1664	A Museum.
42s.	862 0 0	..	..	400	..	A Museum. Had 1 Exhibition and Concerts.
24s.	..	100	good	7000	21,000	A Museum. Had 2 Exhibitions.
21s. and 42s.	915 0 0	52	..	4002	25,000	
21s. to 30s.	..	14	good	1500	8000	
10s. 6d. to 21s.	14 0 0	12	..	120		
20s.	..	11	..	600		
..	110 0 0	..	..	180		
6s. to 8s.	..	23	good	200	..	Books not yet lent out.
10s.	..	36	..	120		
4s. to 5s.	39 0 0	16	150	500	800	
4s.	..	50	60	1000	1500	
12s. to 24s.	1296 0 0	50	225	3500		
12s.	..	40	..	300	2500	
10s.	..	50	70	150	300	
42s.	990 0 0	56	250	8000		

APPENDIX IV.

LIST OF LECTURERS.

Name.	Address.	The Principal Subject which the Lecturer Teaches.
Abbott, — . .	94, Charlton-street, St. Pancras, London.	Fine Arts.
Addams, Robert	20, Pembroke-square, Kensington.	Natural & Experimental Philosophy.
Allport, D. . .	Camberwell . . .	The Mind, History of Ancient Egypt and the Pyramids.
Alpenny, J. S. .	George-street, Richmond	Engraving and Fine Arts.
Althans, Henry	Tower Hill	Genius and Taste.
Anderson, J. surg.	Richmond	Physiology, Phrenology, Zoology, and Anatomy.
Austin, Rev. J. B.	Goldsmith House, Peckham.	Chemistry.
Bagshot — . .	.. ..	Natural History.
Ball, R. A. .	14, Warwick-court, Gray's-inn.	Eloquence.
Ball, William .	17, Thayer-street . .	Comic Literature.
Barber, Dr. J. .	20, Cecil-street, Strand	Elocution.
Bateman, J. .	Poplar Institution . .	Astronomy—Education.
Bell, Major Jas.	Beverley, Yorkshire .	History.
Bennett, — .	Staines	Philosophy of History.
Bennett, G. .	.. ..	Divisions of the Earth, Oratory, and the Drama.
Bertinchamp, J.	Belfast	On teaching Languages.
Bird, — . .	Eton College . . .	Astronomy.
Birt, W. R. . .	Salvador House, Bishopsgate-street.	Astronomy and Natural Philosophy.
Bonney, F. A. B.	Brentford	Botany and Geology.
Bontems, J. F. .	Brentford	Education.

Name.	Address.	The Principal Subject which the Lecturer Teaches.
Bowles, J. C. .	80, Cannon-street, City	Hydrostatics.
Bowkett, J. E. .	India-row, East India Road.	Chemistry—Health.
Brannan, Chas. .	2, North-place, Gray's Inn-road.	Music.
Brayley, E. W.	Great Coram-street .	Igneous Geology.
Brittain, — .	17, Burton street, Burton-crescent.	Architecture.
Butler, Samuel.	Olympic Theatre . .	Drama.
Bachhoffner, —.	Polytechnic Institution	Chemistry—Electrotype.
Bowring, John .	Queen-square, Westminster.	Political Economy.
Brown, Henry .	London Mechanics' Institution.	Cotton Manufacture — Works of Fiction.
Calvert, F. B. .	King's College, Aberdeen.	Elocution.
Cantor, Dr. . .	4, Gloucester-street, Queen-square.	Constitution of Man.
Carpue, J. C. .	45. Charlotte-street, Fitzroy-square.	Anatomy—Physiology.
Carver, David .	.. ..	Natural Philosophy.
Chambers, — .	Castle-street, Leicester-square.	Prejudice—Female Education.
Chatterley, W.M.	44, Southampton Buildings.	Natural Philosophy, Chemistry.
Clarke, John .	2, George-street, Minories.	Chemistry.
Clarke, C. C. .	4, Craven Hill, Bayswater.	Poetry—Old Ballads.
Clarke, Hyde .	Great Ormond-street .	Literature and Colour.
Clarkson, C. C.	.. ..	Practical Education.
Clarkson, Ed. .	Manor House, Kentish Town.	Egyptian Antiquities.
Claxton, T. . .	27, Harrington-street, N. Hampstead Road.	Mechanics.
Coggins, Josh. .	.. ..	Music.
Cooper, D. . .	British Museum . .	Natural History.
Cowper, Ed. .	Upper Tulse Hill, Brixton	Mechanics and Manufactures.
Cooper, J. T. .	27, Howland-street, Fitzroy-square.	Chemistry.
Crawford, John.	72, Wilton-crescent, Belgrave-square.	Indian Antiquities and Natural History.
Cromwell, R. T.	23, Upper Rosomond-st.	Antiquities.
Cristall, Wm. .	.. ..	On Education.

Name.	Address.	The Principal Subject which the Lecturer Teaches.
Cull, R. . .	14, Caroline-street, Bedford-square.	Anatomy and Phrenology—the Voice.
Cunningham, Rev. J	Hammersmith.	Mind.
De Lille, J. J. .	33, Michael Place, Brompton.	French Language and Literature.
Darker, W. H. .	.. ..	Light.
Dendy, W. C. .	Stamford-street . .	Mental Illusions.
Dolby, T. . .	103, Grove-street, Camden Town.	Local Attachment.
Downing, T. .	King's College Hospital, London.	Photogenic Drawing and Daguerreotype.
Dickson, Dr. .	.. ..	Botany.
Eisdell, N. . .	77, Sloane-street . .	Extinct Animals.
Elliott, John .	3, Martin's-lane, Cannon-street.	Physical Education.
Elton, E. W. .	15, Claremont-place, New-road.	Shakspeare.
Epps, Dr. . .	Great Russell-street .	Phrenology.
Evershed, — .	.. ..	Circumstantial Evidence.
Everitt, T. .	6, Torrington-square .	Chemistry.
Farrell, — . .	Brentford	Electricity.
Foggo, G. . .	15, New-st., Dorset-sq.	Fine Arts.
Foster, — . .	Woolwich	Languages.
Fox, W. J. . .	Smith-sq., Westminster	History.
Francis, F. S. .	10, St. George's-terrace, Hyde Park-terrace.	Fine Arts and Geology.
Francis, G. . .	56, Great Prescott-street, Goodman's-fields.	Comic Painting.
Freeman, Dr. .	.. ..	Physiology.
Fry, A. A. . .	15, Chancery-lane .	Milton and Burke.
Gascoigne, M. .	.. ..	History of Switzerland.
Goddard, J. F. .	.. ..	Oxy-Hydrogen Microscope.
Godwin, G. . jun.	11, Pelham-crescent, Brompton.	Structure of the Earth.
Goyder, D. G. .	104, Brunswick-street, Glasgow.	Phrenology.
Grant, Professor	Euston-street, Euston-square.	Zoology—Anatomy.
Grainger, R. D.	Maze Pond, Borough .	Physiology.
Griffiths, T. .	Claverley Cottage, Hammersmith.	Chemistry.
Hall, — . . .	7, Bath-place, Kensington.	Botany.
Hancock, — .	59, Harley-street . .	Physiology.

Name.	Address.	The Principal Subject which the Lecturer Teaches.
Haverfield, Rev. T.	Hammersmith . . .	Zoology.
Hawkes, Wm. .	Soho Hill, Handsworth	Poetry.
Haydon, B. R. .	4, Burwood-place, Connaught-square.	Painting—Fine Arts.
Hemming, J. .	17, Edward-street, Portman-square.	Chemistry.
Hersee, H. jun.	Peckham	Elocution and the Genius of Boz.
Higgins, W. M.	21, Watling-street . .	Natural Philosophy.
Hincks, Rev. W.	20, Torrington-square .	Botany.
Hinton, E. . .	30, Soho-square . .	Stenography and Languages.
Hoblin, R. D. .	2, Sussex-place, Regent's-park.	Botany.
Hopgood, J. .	202, Bishopsgate-street	Constitution of Man.
Honeybone, T.	Brentford	Music.
Hoppus, Rev. Dr.	.. ..	.. ..
Howell, A. . .	.. ..	Astronomy.
Hudson, J. F. .	Greenwich	Pneumatics.
Innes, H. . .	Admiralty, Somerset House.	Belles Lettres.
Jenkins, Rev. J.	Swansea	The Mind—Education.
Jones, W. . .	26, Park-lane . . .	Physiology—Nat. Hist.
Jones, T. R. .	49, Brompton-square .	Comparative Anatomy.
Jones, Rev. Dr.	Vicarage, Bedfont . .	.. ..
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Johnson, C. .	Guy's Hospital . .	Botany.
King, John .	20, Soho-square . .	Raphael.
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Lee, A. C. . .	Three Crown-sq., Southwark.	Chemistry.
Leigh, J. M. .	421, Strand . . .	Elocution.
Lewis, H. . .	Westminster School of Medicine.	Chemistry.
Linwood, W. .	9, Broad-st.-buildings	History and Religion of China.
Logan, — . .	Walworth	Phrenology.
Lucking, W. .	1, Mile-end Terrace, Mile-end Road.	Natural Philosophy, Chemistry.

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Marcel, A. . .	4, Clifton-place, Cambridge-heath, Hackney-road.	Language.
Marsh, M. A. .	Woolwich	Detection of Arsenic.
Martin, W. .	Hammersmith . .	Zoology.
Mason, A. J. .	22, Fleet-street . . .	Wood Engraving—America.
Maugham, Wm.	Polytechnic Institution	Chemistry.
Meeson, Dr. H.	.. ..	Chemistry.
Millingen, — .	12, St. John's Wood Rd.	Physiology.
Mitchell, James, LL.D.	36, New Broad-street .	City of Rome—Turkey, &c.
Mead, — . .	St. John's Wood Rd.	The writings of Dickens.
M'Pherson, — .	Oakham, Surrey . .	Astronomy, Geography —Society.
Montagu, Basil	Storey's Gate, Westmr.	Prejudice—Laughter—Female Affection—Bacon, &c.
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Murray, H. .	.. ..	European History.
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Noyes, Mrs. .	Do.	The Wind.
Nutall, P. A. .	.. ..	Roman Language.
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Phillips, T. . .	.. ..	Vocal Music.

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Purday, C. H. .	45, Holborn . . .	Proper Objects of Music —National Melodies.
Ranwell, — .	.. ..	Perspective.
Reece, — . .	.. ..	On Wax.
Richardson, G.	British Museum . .	Geology—Zoology—German.
Rider, W. . .	5, Albion-street, Hyde-park.	Fine Arts.
Robinson, John	Great Tower-street .	Pneumatic Chemistry.
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Sampson, G. B.	1, Manor-house-yard, Hull.	Natural Philosophy.
Sainsbury, — .	Strand	Chemistry.
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Serle, T. J. .	6, Walnut-tree-walk, Lambeth.	Shakspeare's Plays.
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Simon, J. . .	.. ..	The Voice—Physiology.
Simpson, R. .	1, Colebrook-row, Islington.	Geography, Natural Philosophy.
Simpson, W. .	.. ..	Geology.
Simms, G. . .	.. ..	History of Palestine and Lebanon.
Smart, L. . .	.. ..	Elocution.
Smart, B. H. .	55, Connaught-terrace, Edgware-road.	Shakspeare's Plays—Elocution.
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Smith, Dr. S. .	36, New Broad-street .	.. ..
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Thomas, C. .	Great Tower-street .	Steam-engine.
Thompson, G. D.	3, Salmon-place, Barnstaple.	Elocution.
Thompson, Rev. F.	Brentford	Landscape Drawing—Genius.
Tomlinson, Rev. J	Salisbury	Astronomy; Natural Philosophy; Navigation.
Tomlinson, Chs.	Salisbury	
Thompson, Col.	Blackheath	Political Economy.
Topliff, R. . .	.. ..	Instrumental and Vocal Music.
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Walker, F. C.	2, Holland-street, Clapham-road.	Music—Music of the Church.
Walker, W. .	Webb's-lane, Hammersmith.	Electricity.
Wallis, Jno. .	Alfred-place, Albany-rd., Camberwell.	Astronomy.
Webster, T. .	London-st., Fitzroy-sq.	Geology.
Wilson, J. . .	.. ..	Scottish Music and Scottish Song.
Woolrych, H. W.	Rickmansworth, Herts	Education—Law.
Whitney, W. A.	College-street, Westminster.	Character of Nations, Phrenologically.
Wilks, Dr. .	5, Hart-street, Bloomsbury.	Botany.
Wright, J. . .	.. ..	Oratory of Shakspeare.
Young, W. .	12, Barossa-place, Chelsea.	Entomology—Hydro-oxygen Microscope.
Zaba, N. F.. .	104, Sloane-street . .	History and Literature of Poland.

APPENDIX V.

ABSTRACT OF BILL*

FOR ENCOURAGEMENT OF INSTITUTIONS FOR GENERAL INSTRUCTION.

Preamble.

WHEREAS many Institutions or Associations of Individuals have been formed for the improvement of the Members thereof by means of Lectures and Classes, by the formation of Libraries of Circulation and Reference, and by Collections of Works of Art, of Philosophical Apparatus, and of objects of Natural History; And it is expedient to encourage the establishment of such Institutions:

Abstract of Clauses.

1. It shall be lawful for any number of persons to form an Institution for the general objects of Literary, Scientific, and Mechanics' Institutions, and to make any rules for their government not repugnant to the law or the general purposes of this Act.

2. Rules to be made upon the establishment of every

* The London Association is indebted for this draft Bill to Mr. Thomas, a member of the Committee.

Institution, declaratory of its objects, and the mode in which its funds shall be applied.

3. A fair copy of rules, signed by three members, and countersigned by the secretary or clerk, to be submitted to the barrister who certifies the rules of savings' banks, who shall certify if they be according to law, and in conformity to this Act. Fee to barrister not to exceed one guinea on any one occasion. Copy of rules, when certified, to be deposited with clerk of the peace of the county, and confirmed by the magistrates in general quarter sessions. Such certificate to be filed with the rolls of the Court, and a certificate of the enrolment to be given by the clerk of the peace to the institution without fee. Alterations in the rules to be certified and enrolled in like manner.

4. If barrister refuse to certify all or any of the rules, the institution to submit them, with his reasons, to the quarter sessions, who are to decide.

5. Fair copy of rules to be open at institution for inspection of the members. All rules properly enrolled, and of which a certified copy shall lie open at institution, to be legally binding on all parties to whom they may refer. Rules not on any legal process to be removable into any court of record.

6. Rules may be altered from time to time according to the method pointed out in the original rules confirmed by justices.

7. Relates to places of meeting.

8. Institutions to appoint officers to perform the several duties prescribed by the rules. Every officer through whose hands the money of the institution may pass (if

required by rules), to be bound according to a prescribed form, and also to give two securities to duly administer the funds. Bond to be given to clerk of peace of county, in whose name, in case of forfeiture, the bond may be enforced.

9. Any institution may delegate powers to a committee.

10. Treasurer or trustee to invest any surplus funds in real or heritable property or securities, or in the public stocks, banks, or funds, and not otherwise. To make transfers of such investments when necessary, and to bring to account all proceeds of such investments for the institution's benefit.

11. Any party holding any property of any such institution to account for or deliver up same upon due notice being given; and in case any such person neglect or refuse to comply with said notice, the same to be summarily enforced, upon application to the Court of Exchequer, whose order is to be final.

12. Parties holding property of any institution, and being out of the jurisdiction of the said Court, or in any way incapacitated to transfer it, to appoint, under order of the said Court, a party to make such transfer to any trustee or other person duly appointed under the rules of the institution.

13. Provides for compulsory transfer of funds of institution.

14. No charge to be made by Court of Exchequer for any proceedings therein.

15. Orders of Court respecting transfer of stocks to

be made to secretary, deputy-secretary, or accountant-general of Bank of England, &c., except where there is a remaining qualified trustee.

16. Indemnifies Bank of England, &c., for all matters done in compliance with Act.

17. In case of death or disqualification of any party holding property of any institution, the legal representative to render up such property within forty days after demand made by the institution, and shall pay any moneys due to institution out of said estate before any other debts.

18. All real and heritable property, &c., to be vested in the treasurer or trustee duly appointed, and to be transferred to his successor without assignment or conveyance, and the investment of the property to be in each case sufficient for all legal purposes.

19. No officer duly appointed under the rules to be liable for a larger amount of damages, costs, &c., on any legal proceedings than the amount of the property vested in him on behalf of the institution.

20. No fee or reward to be taken by any officer of any Court in which a treasurer or trustee, appointed under rules duly sanctioned by justices, shall have occasion to appear as representative of such institution.

21. No institution to be dissolved without the consent of three-fourths of the members; and, in any such case, mode of appropriation of property to be previously specified in the rules.

22. A minor or femme-covert to enjoy all the privileges, and be liable to all the responsibilities, under this

Act, the parent, &c., having previously given consent to membership.

23. Rules to provide that once, at least, in every year, a full account of receipts, expenditure, and capital shall be prepared, attested by two or more auditors. Copies to be furnished at a sum not exceeding sixpence each to any member wishing for the same.

24. No deed, policy, or other instrument to which any institution enrolled under this Act, or any officer acting for same, shall be a party, to be liable to any stamp-duty or duties.

25. Premises held for the purposes of any institution enrolled under Act to be exempt from all local and general taxation, provided non but the officers reside therein.

26. Any institution to be at liberty to withdraw from the operation of this Act, upon notice to be given to clerk of peace.

27. Act to extend to all institutions hereafter to be established, and to those already established, on same conforming to the provisions thereof.

28. Act to be deemed a Public Act, and to extend to Ireland.

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