

This tends to detract from the merits of the second conclusion as a possible solution. In order to discuss the first conclusion, it will be necessary to make a brief survey of the growth of the Library under the Board.

An inventory of the number of books in January 1874 will provide one basis of comparison with the size of the library at later dates. When the College took control of the Library, there were 3400 books on the shelves of the circulating department, while, by December 31, 1881, this number had been increased to 9068.⁽⁴⁵⁾ Although the majority of the additions (2814) were works of fiction, other subjects were well represented. History accounted for 210 of the additions, biography 231, travel 298, architecture 198, general literature 161, poetry and drama 67, science 150, miscellaneous 238, and periodicals 163. Meanwhile in the same period the reference department grew from 1190 volumes to 6384.⁽⁴⁶⁾ In 1893, the present reference department was added to the rear of the circulating department, at a cost of £895,⁽⁴⁷⁾ while, in the following year, the Librarian's wooden cottage was destroyed by fire and replaced, at a cost of £563,⁽⁴⁸⁾ by the brick building which still serves as the Librarian's residence. However, these were not the only additions, for, in 1897, at a cost of £315, a gallery was added to the reference room, and in 1901, at a cost of a further £4307, the original Mechanics' Institute building, on the corner of Cambridge Terrace and Hereford Street, was demolished and replaced by the

45. B. of G. 1882.

46. *ibid.*

47. Collins & Harman, Architects.

48. *ibid.*