

Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> Jan 1899

The Committee met at 8<sup>1/2</sup> o'clock  
 Mr Hood President (chair)  
 Rennie Treasurer  
 Callaway  
 Brackle  
 Daniel  
 Davis  
 Duffe  
 Doewood  
 Martin  
 Lynch  
 Langster

Apology for the absence of Rev Mr Abernethy, Mr Veal & Mr Ridley.

Minutes of the previous meeting read & confirmed

Victoria  
Coffee Palace  
Right of way

The Secretary read a letter from Mr G Walker Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy, dated Dec 21<sup>st</sup> 1898 enclosing a cheque for £11 for half year's rent of Subway.

The letter is dealt with in the House Committee's Report.

The House Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that the Secretary has read to them a letter received from the Secretary of the Board of Directors of the Victoria Coffee Palace Coy in which he enclosed a cheque for £11 which he said was for rent of "Subway" on the terms of our letter of 7<sup>th</sup> October 1895. To this the Secretary replied that he could accept it only on the terms of his letter July 11<sup>th</sup> 1898. Our Secretary has received no reply to that letter.

It is recommended that the matter be at once placed in the hands of our Solicitors with instructions to take such steps as they consider necessary.

Have our wishes carried into effect. A notice has been received from the Fire Under Writers' Association of Victoria stating that the whole of our electric installation must be overhauled and remodelled before a new certificate can be granted. Your Committee have instructed the Secretary to write stating that the required alterations shall be made, and we are calling for tenders for the work. Accounts amounting to £23. 11. 4 have been examined & found correct.

On the motion for adopting the report, an amendment was moved that the part referring to the instructing the Solicitors be dismissed with, and that it is not yet necessary to refer the matter to our Solicitors, and that the Secretary shall give a receipt for the cheque stating that it is for rent for the overhead & access & Subway compound.

The Report, thus amended, was adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for December and found them correct. The Secretary has read for us the Balance Sheet of the year, which, on the whole, is satisfactory. The following Aps are recommended for payment:

Salaries & Wages	£ 44. 10. 0
Electric Light	11. 10. 0
Gas	5. 5. 0
Charts	2. 5. 0
J Carter Roof of Chestnut	2. 3. 6
A Chambers & Seymour goods	1. 10. 10
W Dean Bros & Riff	18. 0
J May Cash	5. 0. 0
	<hr/>
	£ 23. 1. 4

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie & Mr Callaway, that the Report be adopted.

The Treasurer submitted his Balance Sheet which was adopted subject to the Audit.

The draft of the Annual Report was read, and, after a few alterations, was adopted.

It was resolved that the Library shall be closed Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> Jan<sup>y</sup>, but that the Reading room shall be opened.

Secretary's statement

Subscriptions for the month £52.9.6  
12 months 771.9.0

Total revenue of the month £159.0.6  
12 months 2020.11.0

New members during month 3  
12 months 84

Balance in Bank £263.12.11  
Fixed Dept 300

Confirmed  
L. Daniel  
2/2/99.

# Annual General Meeting of Members held in the Upper Hall of the Institution.

## Wednesday 25<sup>th</sup> January 1899

The chair was taken by the President Mr M Hood at 8 p.m.

The Secretary read the advertisement of the meeting, which was conveyed in accordance with the provisions of Rule 20. The minutes of the last Annual Meeting were read and confirmed.

The Secretary read the following Report of the Committee

The following return shows the number of works of various classes that have been issued during the last four years:—

CLASSIFICATION.	1895.	1896.	1897.	1898.
Agriculture, Commerce, and Statistics	3	3	1	1
Mechanics, Mathematical Sciences, Architecture, Engineering, and Useful Arts	7	3	5	5
Biography, Speeches, and Correspondence	820	1,242	1,284	1,813
Classics and Philology	29	23	17	28
Fine Arts	2	6	5	7
Geography, Voyages, Travels, and Descriptive Works	710	1,410	1,268	1,804
History and Historical Memoirs	490	1,009	1,008	818
Jurisprudence and Legislation	1	1	1	2
Medical Science and Chemistry	1	1	1	1
Miscellaneous and Collected Works	380	561	702	627
Natural History and Botany	17	13	20	16
Works of Fiction	22,258	19,073	18,346	17,969
Music	1	1	1	1
Periodical Literature	1,650	2071	1,846	2,008
Philosophy and General Science	151	122	117	101
Poetry and the Drama	101	97	108	118
Politics	20	27	39	48
Religious & Ecclesiastical Works	33	34	48	30
Juvenile Works	132	113	77	122
<b>Total</b>	<b>26,806</b>	<b>25,810</b>	<b>24,844</b>	<b>24,519</b>

THE Committee of the Melbourne Athenæum submit their report of the transactions of the past year.

The gross receipts of the year amount to £2020 11s., and the expenditure to £2155 0s. 10d.

The following are the details of the receipts:—Subscriptions, £771 9s.; rent of front shops, £557; rent of large hall, £401 12s.; small hall, £133 18s.; rooms, £126 6s.; sales, £17 16s.; interest, £12 10s.

The items of expenditure are:—Interest on mortgage, £640; salaries and wages, £510 16s.; books, magazines, and newspapers, £405 11s. 6d.; rates, £142 10s.; electric light, £138; gas, £122 5s.; repairs, goods, and sundries, £65 6s. 4d.; binding, £54 7s. 3d.; insurance, £43 10s. 9d.; postage, stationery, and petty cash, £16 18s.; advertising and printing, £11 12s.; auditors, £4 4s.

The number of members on the roll is 747, of whom 84 joined during the year.

The number of books added to the library during the year was 370; the total number of works issued to subscribers was 24,519, and 5916 magazines.

### STATISTICAL STATEMENT OF TRANSACTIONS FOR THE LAST TWENTY YEARS.

YEAR.	No. of Subscribing Members.	New Members.	Volumes Added.	Works* Circulated.	Magazines Circulated.
1879	1410	361	771	58,450	6,096
1880	1400	361	543	36,317	6,399
1881	1398	326	552	34,291	6,642
1882	1333	341	582	34,342	7,268
1883	1330	329	560	35,016	7,209
1884	1334	277	711	35,129	7,231
1885	1311	254	680	29,653	7,200
1886	1468	351	700	29,382	7,150
1887	1568	376	613	28,241	7,108
1888	1535	355	618	29,697	7,209
1889	1515	312	698	30,601	7,142
1890	1492	316	670	30,699	7,083
1891	1381	237	610	30,441	7,121
1892	1193	186	652	30,319	7,121
1893	1036	126	639	28,815	7,057
1894	945	123	627	27,880	6,983
1895	859	97	485	26,806	6,127
1896	832	105	477	25,810	5,960
1897	805	125	403	24,844	5,975
1898	747	84	370	24,519	5,916

\* Prior to, 1880, the figures represent single volumes; since that date they represent the entire work, whether consisting of one volume or more.

The number of visitors introduced by members, under the provision of Rule 19, was 209

The Government has contributed during the year:—

- Victorian Parliamentary Debates.
- Votes and Proceedings of the Parliament of Victoria.
- Government Gazette.
- Acts of Parliament.
- Results of Observations, Melbourne Observatory.

The following donations of works have also been kindly made:—

- The Philosophy of Theism, by Alex. Campbell Fraser, two copies presented by G. W. Rusden, Esq.
- Transactions and Proceedings of the Royal Society of Victoria, Vol. XXXIII, New Series, presented by the Council of the Royal Society.
- The Vaccination Inquirer and Health Review, forwarded monthly by Mr. J. Carson.
- Volume XXVII, of the Proceedings of the Royal Colonial Institute, from the Society.
- Two Copies of Bradshaw's Guide to Victoria, supplied regularly by Messrs. Stillwell and Co.
- The Sydney Trade Review and Prices Current, by the proprietors, Messrs. Mitchell, Clisholm, and Medcalf.
- The Melbourne Masonic Journal, presented monthly by the proprietors.

The proprietors of the principal metropolitan and provincial newspapers have also each contributed one copy of their journals.

The Annual Election of Honorary Office-Bearers resulted in the return of the following gentlemen:—President, Mr. M. Hood; Vice-President, Rev. J. McL. Abernethy; Treasurer, Mr. Charles Rennie; Committee—Messrs. H. S. Barlow, E. Davies, T. Eales, J. Iliffe, D. Mickle, J. S. Ridley, and D. Sangster.

Mr. Eales resigned his place on the Committee, and the vacancy was filled by the election of Mr. R. G. Wilson.

Leave of absence was granted to Mr. Levi for three months, on account of ill health. Leave of absence for three months was also granted to Mr. Barlow.

There have been 12 meetings of the General Committee during the year:—

The President, Mr. Hood .. .. .	attended	12
The Vice-President, Rev. Mr. ABERNETHY .. .. .	"	11
The Treasurer, Mr. CHARLES RENNIE .. .. .	"	5

COMMITTEE:

Mr. Barlow .. .. .	attended	9	Mr. Daniel .. .. .	attended	8
Mr. Davies .. .. .	"	7	Mr. Downward .. .. .	"	5
Mr. Eales .. .. .	"	1	Mr. Harlin .. .. .	"	6
Mr. Iliffe .. .. .	"	7	Dr. Jamieson .. .. .	"	6
Mr. Mickle .. .. .	"	5	Mr. Levi .. .. .	"	1
Mr. Ridley .. .. .	"	9	Mr. Lush .. .. .	"	8
Mr. Sangster .. .. .	"	6	Mr. Veal .. .. .	"	8
Mr. Callaway .. .. .	"	6	Mr. Wilson .. .. .	"	1

The following are the attendances of the Sub-Committees:—

LIBRARY.		HOUSE.		FINANCE.	
No. of Meetings, 11.		No. of Meetings, 12.		No. of Meetings, 12.	
Mr. Daniel (Chairman) .. .. .	11	Mr. Ridley .. .. .	10	Mr. Rennie (Chairman) .. .. .	6
Rev. Abernethy .. .. .	9	Mr. Barlow .. .. .	8	Mr. Barlow .. .. .	8
Mr. Callaway .. .. .	11	Mr. Davies .. .. .	7	Mr. Callaway .. .. .	7
Mr. Harlin .. .. .	2	Mr. Hood .. .. .	10	Mr. Downward .. .. .	1
Mr. Hood .. .. .	10	Mr. Iliffe .. .. .	9	Mr. Hood .. .. .	10
Dr. Jamieson .. .. .	3	Dr. Jamieson .. .. .	2	Mr. Mickle .. .. .	5
Mr. Lush .. .. .	7	Mr. Wilson .. .. .	4	Mr. Veal .. .. .	7
Mr. Mickle .. .. .	7				

The President, Vice-President, Treasurer, and the following members of Committee retire from office, but are eligible for re-election, viz.:—Messrs. Callaway, Daniel, Downward, Harlin, Jamieson, Levi, Lush, Veal, and Wilson.

The receipts come nearer to the expenditure than they did last year. It is hoped that, with continued care, there will be a greater improvement this year.

MARTIN HOOD,  
President.

THE TREASURER IN ACCOUNT CURRENT WITH THE MELBOURNE ATHENÆUM.  
For the Year ending 31st December, 1898.

To Balance in Bank and Fixed Deposit .. .. .	£898 2 9	By Interest on Mortgage .. .. .	£640 0 0
Subscriptions .. .. .	£771 9 0	Salaries and Wages .. .. .	510 16 0
Rent of Front Shops .. .. .	557 0 0	Books, Magazines, and Newspapers .. .. .	405 11 6
Large Hall .. .. .	401 12 0	Rates .. .. .	142 10 0
Small Hall .. .. .	188 18 0	Electric Light .. .. .	138 0 0
Rooms .. .. .	126 6 0	Gas .. .. .	122 5 0
Sales .. .. .	17 16 0	Repairs, Goods, and Sundries .. .. .	65 6 4
Interest .. .. .	12 10 0	Binding .. .. .	54 7 8
	2,020 11 0	Insurance .. .. .	43 10 9
		Postage, Stationery and Petty Cash .. .. .	16 18 0
		Advertising and Printing .. .. .	11 12 0
		Auditors .. .. .	4 4 0
			2,155 0 10
		Balance in Bank .. .. .	£263 12 11
		Fixed Deposit .. .. .	500 0 0
			768 12 11
	£2,918 13 9		£2,918 13 9

APPROXIMATE STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES.

ASSETS.		LIABILITIES.	
Estimated value of the real Property of the Institution .. .. .	£35,000 0 0	Loan under Mortgage .. .. .	£16,000 0 0
Value of Library .. .. .	1,500 0 0	Balance .. .. .	22,018 12 11
Furniture .. .. .	750 0 0		
Balance in Bank and Fixed Deposit .. .. .	768 12 11		
	£38,018 12 11		£38,018 12 11

Audited and found correct.

CHAS. RENNIE, HONORARY TREASURER.  
J. H. B. CURTIS, SECRETARY.

ANDREW BURNS, F.I.A.V., } AUDITORS.  
PHINEAS RAINEY, F.I.A.V., }

MELBOURNE, 18th January, 1899.

The Balance sheet, being circulated among the members, was taken as read, and together with the Report was received and adopted.

The following gentlemen were elected scrutineers to conduct the election, if required:—Messrs. Messenger, Pett, Leatens and Jones.

Mr A Burns and Mr Phineas Rainey were re-elected auditors.

On the motion of Mr Sleets, a vote of thanks was passed to the retiring Office Bearer & members of Committee, which was acknowledged by the President.

On the motion of Mr Langford, a vote of thanks was passed to the Secretary & Librarian.

The Chairman announced that nominations for Office Bearer and members of Committee would be taken till 10 p.m.

The following nominations were made in due form:

President Rev J McL Abernethy  
Vice President Mr L S Daniel  
Treasurer Mr Chas Rennie.

Committee:—Messrs Callaway, Downward, Harlin, Jamieson, Lush, Veal, Wilson & Grant.

Three, not being in excess of the number required, were elected.

James McL Abernethy 3/1/99

# General Committee

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> Feb 1899.

In the absence of the newly elected President, the Revd Mr Abernethy, the chair was taken by the Vice President Mr L. S. Daniel, who returned thanks for his election.

- Mr Daniel Vice Pres. (Chair)
- Barlow
- Ridley
- Mickle
- Downward
- Callaway
- Harlin
- Hood
- Grant.

Apologies for the absence of Revd Mr Abernethy & Mr Rennie.

Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.

Minutes of the Annual meeting read for information, and considered to be correct.

The Library Committee reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that the following have been added to the Library:—  
From Melville, Mullen, & Slade 14 vols £5.5.3  
" " " " " 7 vols 1.0.5

Accounts amounting to £32.1.3 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Mickle, that the report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that the Secretary gave the Manager of the Victoria Coffee Palace a receipt for the rent of the overhead passages and the Subway in the right of way, and that nothing further has been heard of the matter.

Victoria  
Coffee  
Palace

Accounts amounting to £21.10.0 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley and Mr Hood, that the Report be adopted.

The Finance sub committee reported as follows:—

Your committee beg to report that they have audited the A/cs for January & found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following A/cs.

Salaries & wages	£ 41.12.0
Melville, Mullen & Slade, Books	14.18.11
Gas & Electric Light	20.12.0
Canadian Newspapers	6.8.1
Detmold. Printing	5.15.11
Sands & the Dayall. Duesology &c	1.5.0
Rougher & Sons. Goods	1.1.0
Otago Daily Times	1.0.0
A. H. Maxima & Co Printing	1.0.0
Auditors	4.4.0
Sunday A/cs	2.10.4
	<u>£ 100.7.3</u>

Resolved, on motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Mickle that the report be adopted.

The following sub committees were appointed:—

Library	House	Finance	Emergency
Lush	Shiffe	Rennie	Shiffe
Callaway	Daniel	Barlow	Rennie
Mickle	Mr Jamieson	Callaway	Barlow
Harlin	Ridley	Downward	Grant
Daniel	Barlow	Mickle	
Hood	Mickle	Yeal	
Mr Jamieson	Grant	Grant	
Grant	Hood		
	Wilson		

Secretary's Statement

Subscriptions for the month £57.8.6 Total revenue for month £110.1.11  
New members for month 2. Balance in Bank £300.13.6. 50 £500

Confirmed J. M. L. Sherriff Chairman  
2/3/99

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> March 1899

The Committee met at 8 p.m.  
 Rev. Mr. Aburnethy, Chair (President)  
 Daniel, Vice President  
 Middle  
 Grant  
 Ridley  
 Barlow  
 Hood  
 Downward  
 Davies  
 Scallaway  
 Barlow  
 Sliffe  
 Lusk  
 Mr. Jamieson.

Rev. Mr. Aburnethy returned thanks for his election as President

Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.

A letter was read dated 10<sup>th</sup> Feb<sup>ry</sup> 1899 from Sir Matthew Davis Solicitor to the Victoria (Coffee) Palace Co<sup>y</sup> with reference to the dispute about the overhead passages in our right of way. It is dealt with in the report of the House Committee. The House Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that Mr. Ridley has been re-elected Chairman. The Lad, Harry Drigley, who had been employed in the Library, has left to join another situation. The Secretary has been instructed to advertise for applications for the vacant position. The Electric Light has been re-installed in conformity with the requirements of the Fire Under Writers' Association. It is recommended that the City Council be asked if they are ready to supply us with the light, and on what terms.

The Secretary has read to us a letter from Sir Matthew Davis Solicitor to the Victoria Co<sup>y</sup>

Victoria Coffee Palace

had

overhead passage

Palace Co<sup>y</sup>. It is recommended that the matter be referred to our Solicitors in conjunction with our former correspondence, and that they be instructed to insist on our claims being carried out.

The Secretary has applied for his usual leave of absence. It is recommended that it be granted.

Accounts amounting to £40.19.0 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Ridley and Mr. Davies that the Report be adopted.

The Secretary was instructed to make a précis of the matter, and Mr. Barlow & Mr. Downward were requested to assist him.

The Library Committee reported as follows:-  
 Your Committee beg to report that they have elected Mr. Middle chairman.

Eleven books have been added to the Library at a cost of £2.19.5

Accounts amounting to £33.0.0 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Middle & Mr. Daniel that the Report be adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:-  
 Your Committee beg to report that they have re-elected Mr. Rennie chairman.

The A/cs for February have been audited and found correct.

Payment is recommended of the following A/cs

Salaries & Wages	£41.12.0
Bridge re-installation of Electric Light	25.7.6
Electric Light & A/cs	15.5.0
Minute Muller & Co Books	9.19.6
Armsstrong Newspaper	6.19.9
George Robinson Books	5.10.6
De Snolle Printing	3.13.7
Leander & Co	3.3.7
Walter & Co	2.8.0
Armsstrong Printing	1.0.0
Smithy A/cs	11.6
<b>Total</b>	<b>£115.11.0</b>

Resolved, on motion of Mr Leake and Mr Barlow,  
that the Report be adopted.

*Eastw. Holidays.* Resolved that the Holidays be as last year, and that  
the next meeting of the General Committee be on 13<sup>th</sup> April.

The Secretary read the Comparative Statement.

### Secretary's Statement

Subscriptions for the month	£71.15.6
2 months	129.4.0
Total revenue of the month	118.8.1
2 months	228.10.0
New members during month	11
2 months	13
Balance in Bank	£318.14.6
Fixed Deposit	£500.
James M. Keenally, Chairman	

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April 1899

The General Committee met this evening at 8 p.m.,  
agreeably with resolution, instead of the preceding Thursday.

Rev. J. M. L. Osborne, President (Chair)

Mr Ridley

Barlow

Hood

Davies

Hartie

Lulloway

Lush

Apologies received for the absence of Messrs Daniel, Rennie & Grant.  
Minutes of the preceding meeting read and confirmed.

*Mr Deal* A letter was read from Mr Deal to the President resigning  
his seat on the Committee. Resolved that the resignation be  
accepted with regret.

*R. G. Wilson* A letter was read from Mr R. G. Wilson to the President,  
asking for leave of absence for about six months, as he was  
going to Europe. Resolved that the request be complied  
with, and that a letter be sent to Mr Wilson tendering the  
sympathy of the Committee for his recent bereavement.

A letter the following letter was received from our Solicitors,  
Messrs Warranda, Fitts & Newbold (per J. Warranda):—

(Messrs Fitts & Newbold)  
Bank Warranda

93 William Street  
Melbourne 13 April 1899

J. H. Curtis Esq

Secy Melbourne Athenaeum

Re Coffee Palace

Dear Sir,

After several interviews with Sir  
W. H. Davies who was acting for the above, and  
some urging, we have obtained a proposal  
to submit for your Committee's consideration,  
viz:— That the Coffee Palace be given a lease  
for 14 years to run concurrently with their  
present lease of the premises, it has a few  
months under or over the 14 years to run.

The rent will be as named by you. One condition to be attached to the lease - that, should they cease to carry on business at any time, they should have the option of surrendering the lease without further liability than the current rent. Kindly favour us with your instructions.

Your truly  
Wacward Gibbs & Wacward

Resolved that the letter be referred to the House Committee.

The Library sub-committee reported as follows:—  
Your committee beg to report that the following have been added to the Library:

From Melville Mullen & Slade 15 vols @ £6.18.9  
" " " 10 vols 1s 6

Accounts amounting to £134.11.7 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Hood, that the Report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:—  
Your committee beg to report that the Corporation of Melbourne is not yet able to supply our Institution with the Electric light.

The Secretary has given instructions to our Solicitors with reference to the dispute with the Victoria Office Palace Co. Accounts amounting to £10.5.9 have been examined & found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley and Mr Hood, that the Report be adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

Your committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for March, and found them correct.

Payment is recommended of the following accounts:—

Salaries and wages	£ 41.12.0
Chitcheas & Co Periodicals	9 6.7.9
Melville, Mullen & Slade Stationery	23.2.9
Melbourne & Melb. Bd of Works	45.7.6
The New Austr. Elec. Co., the Gas Co.	16.5.0
Stillwell Ho. Printing	5.17.0
William Beattie. Repairs	4.0.0
Leasden Newspapers	3.3.8
Cooperation of Melb. Clubs	2.5.0
Hedmore. Receipts	2.19.3
Melville Mullen & Slade. Books	1.15.10
Sundry Gas	3.19.9
	<hr/>
	£ 246.9.4

Resolved, on motion of Mr Barlow & Mr Callaway, that the Report be adopted.

8 Hours Day

It was resolved on motion of Mr Ridley that the Library be closed on Eight Hours' Day.

Chess Match

On behalf of the Melbourne Chess Club, Mr Martin asked that the Club be allowed to use the Small Hall as they did last year for the Intercolonial Chess Match 24<sup>th</sup> March. The permission was granted.

The Secretary read comparative statement of Receipts and Expenditure.

Secretary's Statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£57.10.0
3 months	185.14.0
Total revenue of the month	132.15.10
3 months	361.5.10
New members during month	92
3 months	272
Balance in Bank	£335.17.2.
Fixed Deposit	£500.

James McL. Aherney Chairman  
4/5/99

Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> May 1899

The Committee met at F. K. W.  
Read Mr. Cherrinthy, President Chair  
Mr. Hood  
Ridley  
Davis  
Mickle  
Downward

Minutes.

Apologies for the absence of Mr. Barlow, Mr. Steffe and Mr. Hamel.

Minutes of the preceding meeting read & confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr. Worthington asking on what terms the hall should be let for a religious discourse on Sunday.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Downward & Mr. Ridley, that Mr. Worthington be informed that the hall is not let on Sunday's except in special cases.

The Library Committee reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that 13 vols have been added to the library at a cost of £3.12.0. Accounts amounting to £14.5.0 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Mickle & Mr. Hood, that the report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that they have considered the letter from our solicitors re the Victoria Coffee Palace Co's proposal to lease the premises in our right & they, referred to him by you. They recommend that the terms be accepted, provided our solicitors are satisfied that all our rights are maintained.

Mr. Kewley, the dentist, a tenant of one of the front shops, has applied for permission to use our

Victoria Coffee Palace Co's proposals

Kitchen for his use & so on. It is recommended that permission be granted, provided he shall pay a rental of one shilling per week on account.

Accounts amounting to £20.1.6 have been examined & found correct. Resolved, on motion of Mr. Mickle & Mr. Davis that the report be adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:

Your committee beg to report that they have audited the Aps for April & found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following Aps:

Salaries & Wages	44.10.0
Gas & Electric Light	19.19.0
Milville Mullin & Slade, Books	9.5.7
J. Casselden & Co. Papers	3.4.5
George Robinson Books	1.4.8
Insurance	55.2.0
Sunday Aps & Petty Cash	5.12.0
<hr/>	
	119.1.8

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Mickle & Mr. Hood, that the Report be adopted.

Mr. Hood informed the Committee that some one had cut an illustration out of the Australasian. The Secretary was instructed to put up a notice about it in the Reading Room.

The Secretary read the Comparative Statement of Aps.

Secretary's Statement

Subscriptions for the month	£55.6.0
4 months	239.0.0
Total revenue of the month	294.6.1
4 months	575.11.11
New members during the month	8
4 months	30
Balance in Bank £303.15.11.	Fixed Deposit £500

James M. L. Abernethy Chairman



Thursday 1<sup>st</sup> June 1899

The Committee met at 8<sup>15</sup> p.m.  
 Rev. Mr. Abernethy President chair  
 Mr. Daniel Vice Pres  
 Renne Treasurer  
 Ridley  
 Davis  
 Barlow  
 Hood  
 Callaway  
 cliffe  
 Martin  
 Grant  
 Mr Jamieson

Minutes of previous meeting read and confirmed

The Library Committee reported as follows:

Your Committee beg to report that fourteen volumes have been added to the Library at a cost of £4.0.2. Accounts amounting to £17.8.6 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Hood that the Report be adopted.

Mr Barlow informed the Committee that a new book belonging to the Library has been much defaced by ink marks. It was resolved that the Librarian's attention should be called to the matter, and with a view to endeavouring to discover the culprit - as the book had been lent out only a few times. The Secretary was instructed to put up a notice in the Library with reference to the matter.

The House Committee reported having examined accounts amounting to £74 which were found to be correct. The Report was adopted, on the motion of Mr Ridley & Mr Hood.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for May & found them correct. Payment is again made of the following A/cs:

Salaries & Wages	£ 41.12.0
Rates	50.12.6
Gas & Electric Light	21.6.0
Armetongs Newspapers	6.19.9
Middleton Mullen & Co's Book	5.19.1
Carroll's Newspapers	3.3.8
Chambers & Sons' Post	1.1.6
Land of A/c	1.16.0
Interest on Mortgage	390.0.0
<hr/>	
	£ 452.10.6

Resolved, on motion of Mr Barlow and Mr Grant, that the report be adopted.

Mr Martin returned thanks on behalf of the Melbourne Chess Club for the use of the Small Hall on 24<sup>th</sup> May.

The Secretary read comparative statement of receipts and expenditure.

Secretary's statement.

Subscriptions for the month	£ 75.14.0
5 months	314.14.0
Total revenue of the month	174.13.4
5 months	750.5.3
New members during month	?
5 months	37
Balance in Bank	£ 359.7.7
Fixed Deposit	500.0.0
James M. Abernethy president	

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> July 1899

The Committee met at 8 pm  
Rev. Mr. Libberty, chair  
Mr. Grant  
Barlow  
Ridley  
Hood  
Martin  
Lusk  
Mr. Jamieson

Apology for the absence of Mr. Callaway.  
The Secretary reported with reference to the defaced book that the Librarian had spoken to the persons who had taken it out, but had not been able to discover the actual offender. The Secretary has put up a notice in the Library with reference to the matter.

The following letter was read from Mr. Wiswold:  
Re Coffee Palace. We have to report that the new lease of the Subway and Overways for 14 years from 1/6/98 has now been executed. The letter was received.

Victoria Coffee  
Palace.  
Lease  
30.5.1912

A letter was read from Mr. John White, a member of the Institution, making suggestions with reference to the ventilation of the Reading room & other matters. It was referred to the House Committee.

The Library Committee reported as follows:-  
Your Committee beg to report that 19 volumes have been added to the Library at a cost of £5.9.7. Accounts amounting to £16.11.8 have been examined & found correct.

It is recommended that offers from the members be invited for the purchase of the eighth edition of the Encyclopaedia Britannica.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Hood & Mr. Martin, that the Report be adopted.

It was resolved that 3 or 4 copies of the

any reference be placed on a table in the Library with a notice asking for offers for the purchase of the set.

It was also resolved that the Library Committee shall ascertain if there are other editions of other Encyclopaedias (that) are no longer required for the Library, or any other books that) can be offered for sale.

old  
books

The House Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that the Eastern Wall of the Ladies' Clock room has been found to be damp. The Architects (Messrs. Smith & Hudson) were consulted about the matter, and also Mr. Kemp the Builder. It was ascertained that the damp was penetrating through the surface of the bricks from an embankment of earth & rock on the adjoining premises. Your Committee had the plaster removed from a portion of the wall, and are glad to find that the bricks are not so damp as the plaster. A temporary fixture has been made for the clock work, and your Committee will report as to what more may be done.

Damp  
wall

The Electric Light has been very bad lately, and the Secretary has been instructed to write a strong letter to the Co. about the matter.

The question of connecting the premises with the sewerage system is receiving the attention of the Committee.

Accounts amounting to £27.5.6 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr. Ridley & Mr. Hood, that the Report be adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the accounts for June, and found them correct. Payment is recommended of the following A/c's:-

Salaries & Wages	£41.12.0
Gas & Electric Light	21.18.0
Chubb's, Muller & Stone Bank	6.17.6
found	70.7.6

Print Journal	£70.7.6
Stationery Printing	6.10.6
Leased Newspapers	3.3.8
Lease for other Claret	2.5.0
Stationery Printing Claret	1.5.0
Stationery Printing Claret	1.1.6
Chambers & Symonds Funds	16.0
Secretary's Guarantee	1.10.0
	<hr/>
	£86.19.2

Resolved, on motion of Mr Grant & Mr Lusk, that the report be adopted.

Secretary read the Comparative Statement of Receipt & Expenditure

Secretary's statement

Subscription for the month £62.6.0  
6 months 377

Total revenue of month £145.13.4  
6 months 895.18.7

Balance in Bank £52.0.8  
Fixed Deposit £500.

James McSherry President

Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> August 1899

The General Committee met at 8 p.m.  
Rev. W. C. Herbert, Chair

- Mickle
- Hood
- Downard
- Barlow
- Callaway
- Ridley
- Martin
- Daniel V.P.
- Rennie Treasurer

Mr Jamieson

Apologies for absence of Mr Lusk & Mr Stiffe.

Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.

A letter was read from Mr Stiffe, a member of the Committee, directing the attention of the Committee to the necessity of renovating the large Hall as he felt convinced that we are losing fittings on account of its unimproved appearance. The letter was referred to the House Committee.

The Library Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that 15 vols have been added to the Library at a cost of £5.8.3. With reference to the question referred to us by you about old editions of other encyclopaedias besides the Britannica, we have to report that there is an old edition of Chambers's which your Committee recommend to be offered for sale. The Librarian informs us that he has no books that he can recommend for withdrawal from the Library except some that are too much damaged to be offered for sale. Accounts amounting to £11.19.9 have been examined & found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Mickle & Mr Daniel, that the report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that the letter from Mr White, a member of the District, referred to them by you, has been engaging their attention. The Secretary has been directed to draw up a list of reputations and to submit them to your Committee. They also instructed the Secretary to write to Mr White and thank him for the interest in the District which he has shown by making his suggestions. The Secretary wrote a strong letter to the Electric Light Co., and the lighting has since been better. The Secretary has been instructed to see that the improvement be maintained. Several chairs and seats in the Lay Hall are in need of repairs which have been ordered to be done. Accounts amounting to £27.14.10 have been examined & found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ryly, & Mr Hand, that Report be adopted

The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c for July and found them correct. The Fixed Deposit of £500 in the Bank of Australasia falls due 30th Aug. It is recommended that one half be placed in our current A/c and the other half be re-deposited for twelve months. Payment is recommended of the following A/cs

Salaries & wages	£ 44. 10. 0
Gas & Electric Light	24. 19. 0
Desk & Repairs	1. 2. 0
Melville Mullen & Glade, Books	5. 0. 7
Excessed Newspapers	3. 2. 5
Long Advertising	2. 5. 6
Wm Howard Smith & Sons Coal	1. 1. 6
Sunday A/cs	2. 1. 7
	<hr/>
	£ 84. 14. 7

Resolved, on motion of Mr Barlow & Mr Callaway that the Report be adopted.

Secretary read Comparative Statement of Receipts & Expenditure

Secretary's Statement	
Subscriptions for the month	£61.10.0 for 7 months £438.10.0
Initial revenue of month	18. 8. 6 ~ 1077. 7. 1
New members during month	9 ~ 57
Balance in Bank	£146. 9. 9. Fixed deposit £500.

James M. J. Abernethy

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> Sept 1899

The General Committee met at 8 pm  
 Read J. M. L. Abernethy President. chair  
 Mr Rennie Treasurer

- Grant
- Hand
- Harvie
- Barlow
- Callaway
- Lush
- Hartie
- Mickle

Mr Jamieson

Apology for the absence of Mr Ridley & Mr Daniel.  
 Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.

The Secretary informed the Committee that, since the last meeting, Mr David Sangster, a member of the Committee had died

Mr Sangster (4<sup>th</sup> August 1899)

Resolved, on motion of Mr Barlow & Mr Hand, that a letter of condolence be sent to Mrs Gill, the adopted daughter of Mr Sangster.

The Library Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that 19 books have been added to the Library at a cost of £11. 2. 11. It is recommended that the old Magazines withdrawn from circulation be distributed as follows:— between the Immigrants' Home, Benevolent Asylum, and Mr Evans of Brighton for the light house keepers. Accounts amounting to £131. 17. 2 have been examined & found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Hand that the Report be adopted

The House Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have given mature consideration to the question of the rules

Rules for Reading Room

for the Reading room. It is recommended that the following rules be printed on separate slips and be placed in the Reading room:

1. Silence must be strictly kept in the Reading Room
2. Members must not put their feet on the chairs or tables.
3. Papers fixed on the reading-stands must not be removed from them
4. No book periodical or newspaper is to be removed from the Reading-Room.
5. Members are requested to put back the magazines and papers on to the tables from which they were taken.
6. Members are reminded that the fire is for the general comfort of all the members in the Reading-Room. No one is therefore to sit or stand so close to it as to prevent others from enjoying its warmth.

Accounts amounting to £ 38. 15. 3 have been examined & found correct.

A discussion took place on the proposed rules. Rule 2 was disagreed with, and some verbal alterations were made in the others. The Report, as amended, was then adopted on the motion of Mr Callaway & Mr Grant.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/cs for August & found them correct.

Payment is recommended of the following A/cs:

Latham's Congress	£ 41. 12. 0
E. Phillips. His Periodicals	67. 11. 7
Wood answer & San. Papers	23. 9. 7
London & Gotch. Papers	20. 0. 6
Melroy for Aug July	16. 13. 0
The New Cent. Electric Co July	11. 10. 0
J. P. Laukin & Son. Repairing & Painting chairs	7. 10. 3
Armstrong's papers	6. 19. 9
Melville, Mullin & Slade Books	4. 14. 1
G. Casselton's papers	3. 3. 8
George Brewster's papers	2. 15. 0
J. E. Parker's printing Standard	1. 6. 0
Wm. Rowland Smith & Sons. Coal	1. 11. 6
Smith's papers & Cash	8. 17. 0
	£ 217. 4. 5

Resolved, on motion of Mr Barlow & Mr Rennie that the report be adopted

The Secretary read the comparative statement. Some members of the Committee expressed anxiety at the shrinkage of the receipts. The Finance Committee was requested to consider the matter at its next meeting.

Mr Martin & Mr Grant informed the Committee that, at the Annual Meeting of the Melbourne Chess Club, a resolution was carried asking them to thank this Committee for its kindness in lending the Small Hall for the chess inter-colonial tour named.

Secretary's statement

September 1899

Subscriptions for the month	£ 66. 1. 0
8 months	504. 11. 0
Total revenue of the month	570. 3. 8
8 months	1283. 10. 9
New members during month	4
8 months	61
Balance in Bank	£ 578. 8. 10
Fixed Deposit	250. 0. 0

James M. Almon

Thursday 2<sup>nd</sup> November 1899

The Committee met at 8<sup>o</sup> P.M.

Read Mr Ansell's, President, (Chair)  
 Mr Daniel Vice Pres  
 Ronnie Treasurer  
 Barlow  
 Hood  
 Ridley  
 Grant  
 Callaway  
 Downward  
 Lusk

The President informed the Committee that the October meeting could not be held, owing to the illness of the Secretary. The President also said he had decided that it was not necessary to call the Committee together till tonight.

Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.  
 A letter was read from Mrs Gill, adopted daughter of late Mr Sangster, thanking the Committee for their sympathy.

Letters were read from the Secretaries of the Mills: Remedial Asylum, the Immigrants' Home, and Mr Evans (in behalf of Lighthouse Keepers) for donations of books and periodicals.

A letter was read from Mr John White complaining of a member having interfered with him in a manner that he considered unwarranted. He said he thought a notice should be placed in the Reading room informing members that all complaints must be made either to an officer of the Institution or in writing to the General Committee.  
 Mr Barlow said that he was the member referred to by Mr White. Mr Barlow gave an account of the occurrence, and it was resolved, on the motion of Mr Lusk & Mr Ridley, that Mr White be informed that the Committee had enquired into the matter, and considered that he had no ground for complaint.

The Library Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that 20 books have been added to the Library at a cost of £5.1.8. Mr Lusk has informed the Committee that a member (Mr Dillingham) was reading a "Herald" at one of the reading-desks when Mr Lusk went up to read it beside him. He resented Mr Lusk's doing so, and on the latter persisting, he snatched the paper from the desk, Mr Lusk then asked the assistant in the Library to speak to him, but the member merely laughed at him. It is recommended that the Secretary write to Mr Dillingham calling his attention to his violation of the rule in removing the paper from the desk, and cautioning him against its repetition.  
 Accounts amounting to £25.19.4 have been examined and found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Daniel & Mr Lusk that the Report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to recommend that the Metropolitan Board of Works be requested to furnish plans & estimates for connecting the closets of the Institution with the sewer system.

Accounts amounting to £139.10.3 have been examined & found correct.

Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley & Mr Hood, that the Report be adopted.

The Finance Committee reported as follows:-

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the A/c's for September & October, and found them correct.

Mr Alexander engaged the Large Hall for a fortnight for an entertainment called the "German Reed" entertainment. The cost of the letting was £52. He paid £32 with cheques which were duly honoured. The other cheques for the balance of £20 were dishonoured. Your Committee instructed the Secretary to try and get a settlement or some definite promise of payment from Mr Alexander, but only a verbal promise had been obtained.

The question of "wages and means" referred

This Committee by you has been considered, but further consideration of the matter is required.

The following A/cs are recommended for payment:-

Victoria Car Co. R. P. Poll 187631	£ 4. 11. 1
South British S. & M. K. J. 57892	3. 17. 8
Salaries & Wages Octobers	41. 12. 0
Helb & Mehop Bd of works	45. 7. 6
Some rate City Corporation	39. 15. 0
Mehop for Coy 2 months	27. 14. 0
Electric Light	23. 0. 0
William Detmold Building	6. 18. 2
Leased den Newspaper	6. 11. 4
Mulville Muller & Glade Books	4. 3. 10
Melbourne Punch	3. 12. 0
Alexander Kemp. Repairs	3. 8. 3
William Dickie Repairs	2. 12. 6
Corporation. Closets	2. 5. 0
Sidwell & Co Printing	1. 10. 0
Chambers & Seymour Seeds	1. 4. 0
Charles Hoedel Pauly £0. 15. 0	
Leelong Advertis	6. 6
E Whitehead & Co Ind	2. 6
	1. 4. 0
	£ 213. 6. 4

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie & Mr Callaway, that the Report be adopted.

It was resolved that the Reading room should be kept open on Cup Day.

Cup Day

The Secretary read the Comparative Statement of Receipts & Expenditure for first 10 months of the year 1899-98

### Secretary's Statement

#### Sept 1899

Subscriptions for the month	£62. 1. 0
9 months	366. 12. 0
Total revenue of the month	179. 8. 0
9 months	1462. 15. 9
New members during month	9
9 months	70

#### October 1899

Subscriptions for the month	£52. 7. 6
10 months	618. 19. 6
Total revenue of month	189. 12. 6
10 months	1452. 11. 3

New members during month 6  
10 months 76

Balance in Bank £625. 14. 11  
Fixed deposit 238

James M. L. Sherrinthy Chairman

Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December 1899

The Committee met at 8 p.m.  
Rev Mr Abernethy, President, chairs  
Mr Rennie Treasurer  
Mr Rod  
Mr Barlow  
Mr Davies  
Mr Ridley  
Mr Grant

Apologies for absence received from Mr Callaway & Mr Pliffe  
Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed.  
A letter was read from Mr St Taylor, Secretary of the  
Progressive Spiritualistic Lyceum. Mr Leartes stated  
that he had read the letter to the House Committee who had  
instructed him to write for further information. He has done so,  
but has not yet received a reply. It was resolved that the  
letter shall lie on the table.

The Library Committee reported as follows:—  
Your committee beg to report that 22 vols  
have been added to the Library at a cost of £7.12.5  
Accounts amounting to £23.5.6 have been examined  
and found correct.  
Mr Barlow asked why the list of New Books was  
not placed on the Notice Board. The Secretary stated that  
he placed the list there every month. If the list for November  
is not there, some one must have recently removed it. The  
Secretary was instructed to enquire into the matter, and also to  
see that the names of the Magazines were re-arranged  
on the pigeon-holes.  
Resolved, on the motion of the Rev Mr Abernethy  
that the Report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:—  
Your Committee beg to report that the  
Metropolitan Board of Works has consented to  
sanction plans and estimates for the drainage  
work, and will arrange for a meeting of one

of their officers with our sub-committee for the purpose of considering  
the arrangements required.

Accounts amounting to £20.3.6 have been examined & found correct.  
Resolved, on motion of Mr Ridley & Mr Rod that Report be adopted.  
The Finance Committee reported as follows:—

Your Committee beg to report that they have audited the  
A/c for November & found them correct. The question of loans  
& income has been further considered, and has been postponed till the  
end of the Year, when the Balance Sheet will be ready. The  
following A/c are recommended for payment:—

Salaries & Wages	£41.12.0
Electric Light Octolite	11.10.0
Gas	7.15.0
Armstrong Newspapers	6.19.9
Electrol. Building	5.19.10
Middle, Muller & Stadel. Book	5.10.3
Le Casseldeu. X papers	3.10.2
Sunday A/c	2.4.0
Interest on Mortgage	320.0.0
<hr/>	
	£ 405.1.0

Resolved, on motion of Mr Rennie & Mr Barlow  
that the Report be adopted.

Resolved that the President & Vice President with  
the Secretary shall prepare the draft of the Annual  
Report of the Committee.

Holidays Resolved that the Christmas & New Year's  
Holidays shall be observed as last year.

Resolved that the next meeting shall be held  
on the second Thursday in January.

The Secretary read the comparative statement of  
receipts & expenditure for the first eleven months  
of 1899-98.



Secretary's statement  
 Subscriptions for the month £44.13.6  
   11 months 663.13.0  
 Total revenue of the month 124.9.6  
   11 months 1777.0.9  
 New members during month 5  
   11 months 81  
 Balance in Bank £536.18.1  
     Fixed Deposit 250.0.0  
 James McL. Abernethy

Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> January 1900  
 The Committee met at 8 p.m.  
 Revd J. McL. Abernethy Pres. (Chair)  
 Mr L. Daniel VP  
 Ronnie Treasurer  
 Davies  
 Barlow  
 Hood  
 Grant  
 Ridley  
 Downward  
 Lealeway  
 Lush

Apology for absence of Mr. Nettle.

Minutes of previous meeting read & confirmed

Letter read from Mr. White, a member, complaining that members sometimes allowed their dogs to follow them into the Library Reading Room. Resolved that Mr. White be informed that the matter will be alluded to.

The Library Committee reported as follows:  
 Your Committee beg to report that some books have been added to the Library at a cost of £3.12.3 accounts amounting to £22.9.5 have been examined & found correct. Resolved, on motion of Mr. Daniel & Mr. Hood that the Report be adopted.

The House Committee reported as follows:  
 Your Committee beg to report that accounts amounting to £24.6.0 have been examined & found correct. Resolved, on motion of Mr. Ridley & Mr. Barlow, that the Report be adopted.