

REGISTER, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 4, 1882.

going through the various annual accounts from 1875 we find the income consists of the following items:—Subscriptions, £45; interest, £16,105; rents, £13,893; Government subsidy, £14,293; fees, £1,725; incidental receipts, £56; books sold, £6; making a total of £46,123. On the payment side we find:—Salaries, £23,774; charges, £2,675; incidental, £152; lectures, £327; fees to Professors, £438; examinations, £764; prizes, £10; fees paid for scholars, £53; Senate, £338; and rent, £1,378; making a total of £29,909. The difference between this sum and the gross receipts is £16,214. In order to ascertain how the difference between this balance and the sum of £15,295 mentioned in the summary is made up we have had to compare the following items. The first column gives the amounts shown in the annual reports, and the second the sums mentioned in the summary or “statement showing the actual financial position on December 31, 1881”:

	Annual Accounts.	Summary.
Library	£326	£1,500
Laboratories	433	2,079
Medical School	—	20
Museum	77	77
Agent-General, for advance to Professors and apparatus and books ...	1,161	—
Do., scientific apparatus and books	2,700	—
Do., balance in hand ...	—	101
	£4,697	£3,777

Allowing for the odd shillings, the difference between these two sums is £919, which we presume represents the advances made by the Agent-General to Professors. Adding this amount to the annual charges above mentioned of £29,909 we get £30,828, which, deducted from the income of £46,123, leaves a balance of £15,295, as stated in the summary.

We have frequently complained that the annual financial statements do not give the reader a true representation of the facts, and the figures we have just quoted abundantly justify this complaint. There are also one or two other matters suggested by the summary. Why are the “annual charges” limited to the items already mentioned? The Act provides that the annual grant from the Government shall be applied towards paying Professors, &c., defraying the costs of “such fellowships, scholarships, prizes, and exhibitions as shall be awarded for the encouragement of students in such University, and for providing a library for the same, and for discharging all necessary charges connected with the management thereof.” It may not be a very important matter, but it appears to us that at any rate the library is to be regarded as an annual charge upon the income. Then, again, there is

a sum of £2,879 paid for improvements of country lands. The arrangement with some of the lessees is, according to the report for 1876, that they are to pay, in addition to the rent reserved, 10 per cent. per annum on the value of these improvements. These accounts are, we suppose, included in the rents, which are entered as the ordinary income, and if that is so the payment made by the University to the Government should be made a charge on the income. The matter is of importance for this reason. The funds of the University may be divided into three parts:—Ordinary income, endowments, and sums contributed for the building. We know what in the estimation of the University authorities are to be regarded as charges against the income, and we know that on this account there was a surplus at the end of last year of £15,295. We know, too, what is the position of the Endowment Fund. The receipts are, Sir W. W. Hughes, £20,000; Sir Thomas Elder, £20,000; various donors, £1,250, making a total of £41,250. The investments are, E.S. and A.C. Bank at 4 per cent., £20,000; mortgages, £16,150, making a total of £36,150, and leaving a balance of £5,100 uninvested, and which in fact has been diverted by the Council—we trust only temporarily—from the purpose for which it was given. That it should have been misappropriated even for a time is, we think, a serious matter, first, because at the close of the year the accounts, altogether showed a deficit of £1,184; next, because there is a material falling-off in the receipts on account of interest and rents; and last, because we fear there are liabilities yet to be met in connection with the building.

Thus far we have dealt with the Maintenance and Endowment Fund. We now come to the receipts and expenditure on account of Building and Plant. The payments are—Building, £30,171; Gas-fittings, £260; Library, £1,500; Laboratories, £2,079; Furniture, £812; Medical School, £19; and Museum, £77; making a total of £34,920. The receipts are:—Special Government grants £14,000, and general donations £1,640, together £15,640, leaving a deficiency on this account of £19,280. The accounts, therefore, may be summarized as follows:—

Debit balance in building and plant	£19,280	9	7
Improvement of country lands...	2,879	15	1
Balance in hands of Agent-General	101	7	8
Suspense account	18	16	5
Total	£22,280	8	9