

This necessitated an increase in the staff, and as the acquisition of books continued and the interest in them grew, a new home more suitable to the needs and requirements of the Guildhall Library was required. The straggling series of apartments in which the library had been hidden away were avowedly only a makeshift, and yet had to suffice over forty years.

In 1873 a new library and museum was opened for the admission of readers, at a cost, exclusive of fittings, of £25,000, and it was decided that it should be freely opened to the public without ticket or other formality. Readers accustomed to the old rooms probably somewhat regretted the change; the old apartments were cosy and comfortable, and the score or so who could be accommodated at a time found rather the exclusiveness of a club than the hospitality of a public library.

The new building consists of a library, which will accommodate 150 readers, a newspaper room for journals and handy books of reference, and a committee room on the upper floor; with a museum and strong-rooms on the basement. The old building occupied the site of the corridor which now forms the approach to the present library from the Guildhall porch. The expectations of the future development of the institute have been fully realised; the yearly attendance of readers and visitors rose at once from 14,316 in 1868, the last year of the old library, to 173,559 in 1874, the first complete year of the new.

To briefly summarise the incidents of special interest in the progress of the library up to the present time: In 1880 the library was opened to readers in the evenings and all day on Saturdays, and the staff materially increased. The erection of a new building gave a stimulus to the growth of the museum, for which ample accommodation was furnished in the basement of the structure. This department has been generously supported by the citizens of London, Roman remains, London antiquities, and various old English relics being acquired at various times by the institution. In the mediæval section, for instance, the collection of old London signs is of great interest, and includes the famous "Boar's Head" in Eastcheap, and that of the "Cock and Bottle," which is of unique interest, consisting of Delft tiles of high artistic merit. Already the want of space is being severely felt, so great has been the influx of interesting mementoes. The responsibilities of the committee were further increased in 1886 by the successful establishment of the Guildhall Art Gallery, a portion of which is shewn in one of our illustrations.

The lapse of sixteen years since the opening of the new library, years of great progress in all respects, has severely taxed the capacity of the present building. The accommodation for storing books is already exhausted, and as the dimensions of the reading room were soon found to be inadequate, the need for its extension has long been under the consideration of the committee. Even the library itself is often inconveniently filled with visitors, and the museum is hopelessly crowded with antiquities. The total number of visitors in the year 1888 was 396,720, of whom more than 148,000 were readers in the library, the rest being visitors to the reading room and museum. The number of books has been recently counted, and

amounts to over 40,000 works, contained in 57,116 volumes, besides 27,075 pamphlets. From a return which has been prepared for the committee, showing the character of the books read, it is gratifying to observe that fiction amounts to only 16.56 per cent.; history and magazines, each 7.04; theology, 6.6; biography, 5.37; useful arts, 5.28; science, 4.38; poetry, 4.49; topography, 4.4; philology, 3.34; foreign literature, 3.25; genealogy, 3.17; "Encyclopædia Britannica," 2.73; fine arts, 2.64; travels, 2.46; philosophy, 2.37; Greek and Latin classics, 2.20; music, 2.02; archæology, 1.49; politics, 1.32; commerce, 1.23; drama, 1.14; law, .61; and bibliography, .35.

The constant care and attention paid to the needs of the library by the corporation and its library committee have resulted in making the Guildhall Library more and more worthy of its position, and exceedingly useful to the citizens of London and the general public. There is every indication that its contents will continue to be augmented by the addition of old and valuable works and mementoes of historic interest, and thus the interest and value of the collection will also increase and make it as famous as its well-wishers would desire.

The First Paper-Maker.

A WELSH paper notes that two wasps' nests are on view in a shop window in Carmarthen. In shape they resemble a cocoanut, the covering being composed of paper. Speaking of the wasp as a paper manufacturer, Lord Brougham said she makes a paper as excellent as any manufacturer at Maidstone, and he held that she has for sixty centuries been acquainted with what was only discovered by man between five and six hundred years ago. His lordship also states that on examining the structure of wasps' nests he found that she makes two kinds of paper—white and brown, the former being fine cambric—and both are glued together by a smooth and durable cement. The white paper took the ink just as well as if it had been sized. As a matter of fact, the wasp is not very particular as to the colour of her nest. A case was recorded of a nest made in successive layers of parti-coloured paper—red, blue, yellow and white. Upon investigation it was found that the wasp had drawn her materials from a number of strips of many-hued paper, which had been suspended over a newly-sown flower bed in order to scare away the birds. The wasp, in tropical countries, is probably a paper-maker proper, using vegetable fibre for her half-stuff, but in England the examination of many nests leads us to believe that the insect is merely a worker-up of old material, and prefers to use ready-made paper without taking the trouble to grind up vegetable fibre into pulp.—*Paper Record*.

AN interesting find is a library of 500 volumes, including seventy manuscripts of the tenth and eleventh, and some with wonderful miniatures of the fourteenth centuries, which were recently discovered in a Franciscan cloister near Rieti, Italy.