

PARLIAMENTARY GRANTS TO MECHANICS' INSTITUTES.

So soon as it was ascertained, from the printed Estimates submitted to the Parliament at its last Session, that it was the intention of the Government to withdraw all Grants to Mechanics' Institutes, your Committee appointed a Deputation to wait upon the Honourable the Inspector-General, and to represent the effects of such withdrawal of Government support, not only on the several Mechanics' Institutes, but on this Board. The Inspector-General was pleased to assure your Committee that, although the Government had determined on the present withdrawal of all Grants to Mechanics' Institutes, it was the intention of the Government that they should be resumed during the next year, under some more judicious mode of distribution than formerly.

PUBLICATION OF JOURNAL AND TRANSACTIONS.

At the last Meeting of your Committee, a scheme was submitted for entering into a joint Publication, with the Board of Agriculture, of the semi-monthly Journal now published by that Board. Your Committee has not had an opportunity of carefully looking into the merits of the scheme proposed, but, notwithstanding, they are disposed to view it with favour; and would therefore recommend it to the consideration of the Board.

An outline of the scheme proposed is hereto appended.

Your Committee would also recommend that, as soon as practicable, Periodical Examinations of Candidates—Members of Incorporated Mechanics' Institutes—should be established, and Certificates of proficiency granted to such in the following studies, namely :—English Grammar and Composition; Mathematics, Arithmetic, and Bookkeeping; Ornamental, Geometrical, and Perspective Drawing; and Natural and Physical Sciences.



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