

a total of 403 volumes now possessed by the Society.

Passing from the state of the collections, the Council proceeds to notice the number of Members in connection with the Society. There have been elected during the year, seven Ordinary Members, and eight Corresponding—no Honorary Member has been chosen. The number of Members last year who, as resident, were subject to pay a yearly subscription, was 96 ; those at the present date amount to 90.

The Council has much satisfaction in stating the increase both in the number and merit of the Essays offered in competition for its medals. The Committees to which they were referred have in their reports stated the grounds for withholding or adjudging the different prizes, and although it would appear that the majority of the Essays was not of a kind to meet the wishes of the Society, yet the fact that there were several of considerable merit, affords an index of the utility which this mode of exciting emulation may be productive of. The Council has to regret, that the competition for the medal offered for the best Essay read during the year, at any of the monthly meetings, should have called forth so little exertion on the part of the Members, as well as of others, but it is to be hoped that should the Society judge expedient to continue a similar offer hereafter, that the competition may be such as will require the talents of judges to decide.

Among the proceedings of the year, the Council cannot omit the mention of the course of Lectures on Geology, given last fall by Mr. John Finch, which, from having been numerous attended and from the mode of delivery, must have been useful in turning the minds of the auditors to that interesting branch of science. The Council was induced to procure the services of that gentleman, from