

When we ask ourselves what is the cause of this reluctance to Lecture—a reluctance which would have appeared quite strange five or six years ago—we cannot conceal the fact, that Lecturers feel the want of encouragement—as many, indeed, have not hesitated to express. They think, and justly too, that if they devote their time and attention to write Lectures for an Association they should, at least, have an ordinary audience to listen to them; but, how often this reasonable expectation has been disappointed the last two or three years of the history of this Association will abundantly testify. Let us trust that this is not permanently so; but that every member will unite in reviving the interest which has, probably, only flagged, and not vanished for ever.

Before bringing these remarks on the subject of Lectures to a close, your Board have to state that, under its sanction, the President opened a correspondence with Mr. Thackeray, in the hope to induce that gentleman to visit this city, and deliver a course of Lectures in connection with your Association. Your Board was prepared to incur a large measure of responsibility to obtain the result, but regret to have to add that Mr. Thackeray has intimated that he will, in all probability, be unable to comply with their request.

CLASSES.

During the past winter a class for debating purposes was formed, in accordance with the rules of the Association; the meetings of which were continued up to the commencement of the business season; and judging from the manner in which the class was attended, your Board is of opinion that it has been very popular among the members of the Association, and would strongly recommend to their successors the early formation of a similar class for the present winter.

FINANCES.

The Board in laying before you the accounts of the year, request attention to one or two points which cause the expenses to add up a larger sum than usual; one being that out of this year's funds all the expenses incurred by the removal to our present rooms, amounting to £25, were defrayed. Again, the cost of illumination was about £9. They would likewise call attention to the unusually large number of subscriptions remaining unpaid, amounting in all to £150. A sum which, if paid, would place the funds of the Association in a more easy position.