

by the members of the Association; the books are freely made use of, and, as a rule, carefully handled; and they strongly recommend to the attention, not only of their successors in office, but also to the members of the Association, the necessity that exists of keeping up the attractiveness of the Library, by making from time to time such additions to it as the funds will admit. This they regard as of special importance.

LECTURES.

On approaching the subject of Lectures, your Board regrets that the report is not so satisfactory as could be wished.

It is impossible to estimate too highly the advantages of Lectures to an Institution such as this, whose sole object is to impart information. Young men, actively engaged in the busy scenes of life, can scarcely be expected to find sufficient time to follow the pursuit of Literature and Science to their sources. It is, however, necessary for the practical purposes of life that they should obtain, at least, a general view of the field of knowledge, and, for this purpose, where can they find a better guide to direct their attention and efforts than the well-read Lecturer? There is not one member of your Board who has not felt the great advantage of Lectures to the interests of the Association; not one who has not had them continually in view. At every meeting the subject has come up, and names of Lecturers proposed—who, after being invited to Lecture, have as often declined.

It is not surprising that your Board could not procure Lecturers for last winter. It was the beginning of January, this year, before the present Board was regularly organized and divided into Committees—and thus, the time was so limited that the gentlemen abroad, to whom we extended invitations, and others, either did not reply at all, or excused themselves on account of pre-engagements, while those of our own City very reasonably pleaded want of time to prepare.

Learning from past experience, your Board determined to make preparations in time for the coming winter; with this in view, application was made to twenty or more gentlemen both here and abroad, who have often lent their kind services to the diffusion of knowledge. Out of that number but three have been ready to comply with the request—the others being either unable or unwilling to do so.