

season for the study of some interesting branch of science or literature, instead of the somewhat vague and indefinite system which has hitherto prevailed. This course has been adopted at the commencement of the present year, and a class has in consequence been instituted for the study of Commercial Law, (a subject of the highest importance to every mercantile man) under the direction of H. Driscoll, Esq., Q.C.

A prize was offered at the annual meeting for the best Essay on "*The influence of Mercantile Library Associations in elevating the moral and social condition of the mercantile class*;" but with regard to this the Directors unfortunately have again to echo the regret expressed in former reports, at the failure of similar attempts. The Board would, however, recommend that another effort be made to obtain an Essay upon this subject—one, as they believe, of great importance to the Association;—and in order to the better accomplishment of that object, they would suggest the propriety of not confining the competition to its Members alone, as hitherto, but of making it free to all who may choose to enter the lists. While treating of this head, your Board would notice with pleasure the success which attended the Athenæum Club, formed last Winter in connection with the Association. Weekly meetings were held in the Odd Fellows' Hall, at which many very creditable Essays were read and questions of interest discussed by the Members, of these the Club numbered fifty-three, in addition to whom the meetings were attended by many other Members of the Association, as well as by the public; and there is every reason to believe that it will maintain, during the coming Winter, the reputation it has already acquired.

MUSEUM.

Your Board has sincere pleasure in stating, that the Museum at length exists in something more than name, as not only have large additions been made thereto during the course of the year, but the whole of the various articles have been properly arranged, and are now exhibited in the Association's Rooms. The collection of geological specimens was examined by W. E. Logan, Esq., Provincial Geologist, who devoted some time to their classification and arrange-