

At a meeting of the Alumni Association, the following officers were elected for the ensuing year:—*President*, Rev. John Laing, D.D.; *Vice-President*, Rev. Andrew Wilson; *Treasurer*, Rev. Alexander Gilray; *Secretary*, Mr. J. A. Jaffary, B.A.; *Executive*

Committee, Rev. John McEwen, Rev. John Smith, Rev. J. M. Cameron, Rev. R. P. Mackay, M.A.; Rev. W. A. Wilson, M.A.; Mr. J. M. Gardiner, Mr. R. C. Tibb, B.A. It was decided to hold the next meeting about the first of October.

Literary Notices.

The Presbyterian Monitor. A. Henderson.

THIS is a monthly leaflet which reminds us not a little of those printed sermons to a parish, which used to be quite common, but which have ceased since the press has furnished the people with abundant matter for reading. The March number opens with a brief enforcement of the duty of family worship, coupled with a prayer that is very suitable for those who are too modest to think that they are able to lead family devotions. The rest of the tractlet is occupied with explaining four Scripture lessons, or, rather with a series of questions which will imply a painstaking study before they can be properly answered. The advantage of this mode of opening up a lesson cannot be questioned. It forbids laziness; it rouses curiosity. It is in this respect better than an exhaustive treatment of the lesson. But when curiosity is excited the person will resort to a larger magazine of knowledge. And it certainly is no disparagement to this leaflet to say that it is fitted to send the student to heavier works; for it will need no small amount of curiosity in a person to take interest in some volumes that are as dry as they are full.

"*Modern Materialism.*" Rev. W. F. Wilkinson, M.A.

THE desire of the Present Day Tracts to *popularize* the higher questions that can engage the mind of man, cannot be over-praised, especially in an age when there is much looseness, which, while it may evidence intellectual activity, does too often result from intellectual carelessness. There is no reason to dread the vigorous extension of knowledge among the people; it is to be heartily welcomed as auguring an era of increasing intelligence among the masses. But such a revival of intelligence generally might (and *does*) breed a species of scepticism, and yet it offers also a timely opportunity for enforcing the arguments for religion.

This essay handles the topic in a masterly way, and yet never assumes a style beyond the power of the popular mind. There are points at which we are forced to part company with the author, which it is needless to specify. But we guarantee to those whose minds are not at rest on the subject of Materialism, which, like a low lying marsh, is emitting a subtle malaria on the thought of the day, that they will peruse the essay with much satisfaction.