

EDITORIAL NOTES.

Courses of Reading and Study.

It is the purpose of the editors of *THE HOMILETIC REVIEW* to offer their clerical readers, during the coming year, suggestions and helps for reading and study, and for the direction of classes of the more intelligent of their parishioners in such reading and study. This purpose has been the result of various considerations, of which the following are some :

The desire for such helpful direction has been frequently and variously indicated or expressed to them by ministers, and by many intelligent Christian men and women. Many pastors feel—and in this feeling have the sympathy of their best members—the need of something of this kind to aid them in interesting their young people in some systematic effort toward mental improvement and increased culture. There is a growing conviction among men, so situated and connected as to have the best knowledge of the situation, that something better must be done for their young people, if the coming generation of Christian workers is not to become entirely shallow and sentimental through the lack of proper training and indoctrinating.

There seems to be a growing sense of the need of something more coherent and less superficial than some of the courses that are now offered by various organizations, or that shall at least give the minister an opportunity to use his larger mental breadth and culture, in supplementing such elementary courses as may already be given by outside agencies.

Many of our ministerial readers, especially the younger among them, deeply feel the need, in this age of large demands, of grappling with and mastering certain fundamental principles and lines of thought, and are conscious that this can be more easily done when undertaken under suitable direction,

in a systematic manner, and in unison with others whose special sympathy will furnish them with added stimulus.

Some of our best preachers and pastors, who have been long in the work, are casting about, under pressure of the increasing demands for freshness and power in the pulpit, for some way of broadening their mental and spiritual horizon and furnishing, and are ready to cooperate in anything that promises to keep them from an early crossing of the "dead-line."

These are some of the reasons that have given rise to our purpose. Courses are contemplated in Bible study, literature, philosophy, history, sociology, and other subjects. They will be duly announced and the plans presented in the *REVIEW*.

In the mean time the editors will be glad of any suggestions regarding ways of making the work most helpful and profitable.

And yet Ingersoll Has Given It its Death-Blow.

[From *The New York Sun*, Oct. 11, 1895.]

We believe that there is more, far more, religious activity in the world in our times than ever existed at any other time since Christianity was propagated. Religion is the strongest, the most enduring, and the most vivacious of all the powers in our world. Firmer than the rock it stands.

Professional Athletics and the Schools.

It is morally refreshing to see the rising reaction against the tendency to professional athletics in educational institutions. Our readers will recall the brutal scenes in connection with the desecration and degradation of our National Thanksgiving Day, during the past few years, and will recall the opposition to such desecration as expressed by the religious press, and to such brutality as voiced by President Eliot, of Harvard, and other college authorities. The intense, reasoned con-