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EDITORS :

J. A. MCKINNON, B. A., *Editor-in-Chief.*

K. G. T. WEBSTER, '92.

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A. F. MACDONALD, '92.

J. W. LOGAN, '93.

T. C. MACKAY, '93.

P. M. MACDONALD, '94.

W. H. TRUMAN, (Law), '92.

C. M. WOODWORTH, B.A., (Law), '93.

G. D. TURNBULL, (Med.)

MANAGERS :

J. A. MACINTOSH, '92.

R. B. BENNETT, (Law).

W. F. COGSWELL, (Med.)

Address business communications to J. A. MACINTOSH, P. O. Box 114, Halifax
Literary contributions to Editors of Dalhousie Gazette, Halifax, N. S.

WHAT word of greeting shall the GAZETTE speak to the students and friends of Dalhousie now that the happy Christmas time has come around once more? What but this same old word of cheer—old, yet, when the heart is in it, ever new and welcome—"A Merry Christmas." Day when "Merry Old England" was ever merriest, we have brought its old traditions westward and they still rule us strongly. We find it good to yield ourselves to the gracious influences, which, from long associations, and especially from the associations of our younger days, Christmas time has over us; to forget for a while the cares of a world which is "too much with us," and, sharing in the common joys of rich and poor, of young and old, "greet each as brother with a hearty cheer." We no longer light the long candles on Christmas Eve, dress the boar's head, or roll the huge Yule log upon the hearth, yet still the festival day of the Nativity, consecrated by the fervours of Christian oratory, poetry and art, and rich in the tender recollections of former joys, is the happiest day of all the year.

"We keep our Christmas merry still."

IF you wish for a Christmas greeting from the Arts students you will have to wait for a few days until mid-sessional examinations are over. Next Wednesday should you chance to encounter a group of students the greeting you receive will be merry enough. We even, (so benign is the influence of the season,) forgive the professors all the wrongs they have inflicted upon us, and, be the evening cold or warm, dry or wet, give them a call before we leave for home, and we have never found any of them, who, from the strange medley of sounds that assail their ears, was unable to gather our meaning, the wish that they too might have a good time at Christmas. We leave for a short time the homely countenance of our *alma mater*, her *tear-stained* countenance we fancied, (are not those unsightly blotches o'er her face traces of the tears she sheds for the perversities of the professors and the sorrows of the students?) we leave her to her two weeks of solitude and quiet, hoping that we may all gather safely back again to complete the winter's studies within her walls.

PROF. McMECHAN has introduced an innovation which we should like to see the rest of the professors take up. The walls of the English class room are now adorned with pictures of notable figures and scenes in our literature—the gifts of Prof. McMechan and his classes. Shakespeare's heroines of course take precedence; and Jessica's coquettish glance; the earnest eyes of Ann Page; the mildly incredulous gaze of Desdemona; and Juliet's far away look, will sweeten the path of many a weary competitor for the New Shakespeare Society's prize. From every point of view, surely this idea is a good one. Not only does it make our by no means handsome rooms look well; but we really believe that a student will work better under the kindly severe eyes of the great masters of English, and their noble creations. We are sorry to say that some ill-bred fellow has scribbled on one of the pictures; such vandalism the Students' Senate should take means to prevent.

THEY want a motto for the English room,—something to be put perhaps in black letter about the top of the wall, as an ornament to the room and an inspiration to the students. The

GAZETTE, always desirous of promoting the artistic and literary interests of the college, thinks that by this plan the most suitable motto will be forthcoming:—let every contributor search out something he thinks would do, and let him send it to the GAZETTE within a month. The best quotation will be selected by suitable judges, and the GAZETTE will do the fortunate contributor the honor of publishing his or her name, and motto. Here is a chance for fame; let us have a generous response.

HISTORY OF THE DALHOUSIE FOOTBALL CLUB.

“ I LOVE my adversary's legs to kick,
To frisk upon his features with my feet,
To butt him sternly on the diaphragm,
All this is sweet.”

IN attempting a review of this sort, the great difficulty which confronts one is the lack of reliable authorities. There are almost no records of sport in the old days. Graduates who played in the 70's have forgotten everything but the name of football. The GAZETTE is the only really valuable authority. Under these circumstances the critical reader is asked to deal leniently with one who, groping in the dark, has perhaps not been eminently successful in this search for information. Football was first played at Dalhousie in the session '68-'69; but at that time, and for at least another year, there was no regularly organized club. A few students met on the common for exercise, and the play, which was wild and free, was hardly foot-ball as we understand it. However, in the session '70-'71, interest was awakened and the game began to take form. A regular club was organized, with W. Doull, himself an expert player, as captain. The new club, altho' they had the Rugby rules before them, decided in cold blood apparently, to adopt the old shin-barking Association game. But it does not appear that they felt themselves bound down by any very strict regulations. There were giants in those days. Doull's team consisted of:—W. E. Roscoe, G. A. Abbinette, D. Stiles Fraser, James M. Carmichael, Duncan C. Fraser, A. W. Pollok, W. Ross, A. I. Trueman, Finley McMillan, J. J. Parker, J. A. McKeen, A. H. Lindsaig, W. P. Archibald, Logan, Forbes, J. McD. Oxley, and John McGillivray. Among them were a number of fine players. Roscoe was very

powerful and a perfect terror to charge; Trueman was a particularly swift runner, while Pollok, McGillivray, and Abbinette were remarkably plucky and skilful men. Their first match was played on Dec. 3rd, against the Caledonians, a picked team from the city. It was played on the common, and "tho' hotly contested for two hours" resulted in a draw. The chronicler of the time sagely comments:—"Our boys had the advantage in size, which however was more than counter-balanced by the superior numbers of their opponents." On the 14th of January, the return match on the same grounds was won by the Collegians, one goal to nothing. This game was also well fought out, and one goal, secured by Abbinette early in the first half, was the only advantage gained. (For a metrical version the curious student is referred to the GAZETTE of Feb., 1871). A. I. Trueman, of St. John, and James M. Carmichael, of New Glasgow, were elected captains in '71-'72. Both these gentlemen were experienced players; but for some reason foot-ball was neglected throughout the entire season, and no match games were played. W. Ross and J. McD. Oxley were captains in '72-'73. Under them foot-ball took life again. The team practised steadily, and on Oct. 21st played a draw against their old opponents, the Caledonian club. On Nov. 30th, in a game with the same team, Ross and his men gained a decided victory. A third match was to have been played on Dec. 14th, but owing to bad weather it was indefinitely postponed. A number of new men played on this team, notably, W. Browning of Pictou, and J. Morton of Shelburne. Early next season W. Browning and F. O'Brien were elected captains. Foot-ball was played in a kind of a way; but there were no matches, and almost the only notice of the game in the GAZETTE is the treasurer's call for unpaid dues; *sic semper, &c.* During the spring months of the session, an effort was made to organize a Dalhousie Amateur Athletic Association, but unfortunately the scheme came to nothing, and next year we find the GAZETTE as usual, recording the officers of the Dalhousie Foot-ball Club. Brownrigg and R. E. Chambers were now captains. It is recorded that, during the season several players were more or less injured, but whether by reason of this or for some other cause, no matches were played. At the general students' meeting in the following November, G. H. Fulton and J. Murray were made captains; but football languished through another year until, in 1876, R. E. Chambers and G. A. Laird were elected. Both these men were considered good players. They were able to enfuse new life in the game, and on Dec. 9th, defeated a city team on the south common. The team which

Chambers got together this year was a fairly strong one. Stanley McCurdy, of New Glasgow, C. Pitblado and Murray of Charlottetown, were probably his best players. Early in the following session W. Brownrigg and Fred Chambers were chosen captains. Two matches were won from city teams, but of them the writer has been unable to obtain any particulars. He is unofficially informed, however, that in these days also there were giants. In Nov., 1878, S. Keith was made captain with W. McDonald 2nd ditto. But football was dead or at least sleeping too soundly for the men of '78. Even practice on the common was neglected. In 1879, W. McDonald was 1st and Charles Blanchard 2nd captain. Nothing was done this season. These were indeed degenerate days, and athletic sport seems to have been at a particularly low ebb in Dalhousie. Next year W. McDonald was again elected, and with him G. M. Campbell as 2nd captain. Early in the season McDonald sprained his ankle and his mishap seems to have had a despairing effect upon his men, however, interest in the game was much revived. Here endeth the first chapter. Up to this time only Association was played at Dalhousie, but in the very next year the Rugby rules were introduced and a new era was begun. The writer is perfectly well aware that so far he has treated his subject in a desultory and rather unsatisfactory manner, but trusts in his next to give "fuller and better particulars."

G.

OUR GRADUATES.

In our last issue was commenced under the above heading, short sketches of "Dalhousie's Own," beginning with the first draft of '86. We are now in a position to promise an instalment for each issue. To strengthen the hand of the generous friend who, at great sacrifice, has undertaken the task, readers acquainted with any facts and incidents bearing on the lives of graduates, cannot do better than communicate them to the GAZETTE. Like all universities, Dalhousie has a history written and unwritten. These sketches fall within the unwritten, and it is fitting that every alumnus should have an opportunity of knowing something of those who truly illustrate Dalhousie's greatness. The theme is calculated to enlist the sympathy and quicken the patriotism of all interested in the university. Our correspondent will continue writing about friends to friends, and we doubt not, "troops of gentle thoughts will invest themselves on every hand, with chosen words."—[EDITORS GAZETTE.]

1868.

McNAUGHTON, SAMUEL, is known to the present generation of Dalhousians chiefly as the donor of the McNaughton prize. We could have wished he was known to them by his works, "Joy in Jesus," and others.

After graduation, he taught the Guysboro' Academy for a time, during which he contributed a series of articles to the GAZETTE on "The Sublime and Beautiful"—a good way after Burke's famous essay on the same subject. Teaching he abandoned for preaching, taking his theological courses at Halifax and Edinburgh. In 1877 he was called to the pastorate of the Presbyterian congregation in Preston, England, a position in which he has been eminently successful. Amid his many ministerial duties he has not neglected his talent for literature. On the contrary from time to time, works of his are given to the public, and uniformly meet with a warm and hearty reception. "Joy in Jesus" has run thro' five large editions, and others have been nearly as popular.

ROSS, ALEXANDER, hails from Roger's Hill, Pictou Co.,—a district that has furnished many good men like himself to Dalhousie. He had a splendid record at College,—his last year brought him a first class all around, with prizes in Classics and Chemistry. Annapolis gathered him in upon the completion of his course, and retained him a few years as principal of its Academy. Thence he passed to the head-mastership of the Grammar School at Dalhousie, N. B.,—a position he has held almost continuously ever since. We understand he has been of late employing his spare hours in mechanical studies, and may at any moment surprise the world with some invention. We hope he may— for Ross' sake we will take the risk of the surprise affecting our appetite.

SEDGEWICK, ROBERT. There are deputy ministers and deputy ministers, but *the* Deputy Minister is Bob Sedgewick. Seven cities, we are told, disputed for the honor of being accounted Homer's birthplace. We have it on his own authority—

" For he himself hath said it
And it's greatly to his credit "

that a larger number would have claimed *the* Deputy Minister's birthplace, had he not settled the question by announcing at a late Alumni dinner, that he was born in Aberdeen, Scotland. He entered Dalhousie in '63, and like all the other members of his class, except one, he was plucked in second year Mathematics,—it would be the single stain on his character had he made the second exception. He studied law in Ontario,—was admitted to the Nova Scotia bar by special act of the Legislature in 1873, and rapidly rose to the front rank in his profession, and in 1888 was appointed Deputy Minister of Justice. Ever since graduation he has taken a warm interest in Dalhousie and Dalhousians, and so closely did he identify himself with matters relating to the welfare of the boys, that it was customary when the writer was at college, for the students whenever they were in a cheering, perhaps we should say cheerful, mood, to give "three for Bob Sedgewick." Half of us did not know him personally, half of us had never been asked to supply him with a match (and no one was with him five minutes before he made that modest request); but we knew of the good work he was doing for us and the College, and we gave him the cheers. We hope they did him good,—they were very hearty.

SMITH, DAVID H. was a Truro boy—he is now a Truro man. He studied Theology after leaving Dalhousie, but found time to write a

a thesis on which, in 1871, he obtained his M. A. degree. Throat trouble obliged him to give up preaching, and he started business as a bookseller in his native town. For a few years, he filled the position of Inspector of Schools for District No. 9. with much credit, but ill health eventually compelled him to resign. He has since devoted himself wholly to his business, and is now at the head of the large wholesale firm of D. H. Smith & Co., whose ambassadors of commerce penetrate to every village in the Province selling their employers' goods.

SMITH, EDWIN, is a younger brother of David H. Not unnaturally he ascribes much of Dalhousie's success to himself and classmates, and at a late Alumni dinner delivered himself somewhat thusly: "The people learned by our high standing what good work Dalhousie could do—they rallied to her support—and hence her present proud position." He, too, is a clergyman and a good one, as the people of Middle Stewiacke to whom he ministers will testify. Dalhousie has given many good men to the church, but Edwin Smith is equal with the best of them. As chairman of the Committee on Augmentation of the Presbyterian body in these Lower Provinces, he had done most valuable work for his church, and earned the hearty commendations of his fellow Presbyters

1869.

THE most remarkable feature of the class of '69 is that four out of its six members became clergymen. If, therefore, our vocabulary is not exhausted in describing its merits, we shall conclude that we have no use for that new dictionary with the 14,000 additional words.

CARR, ARTHUR F. was the second graduate the tight little island, now famous as the home of the Abegweits, supplied to Dalhousie. His career at college was distinguished—we have not the record of his fourth year at hand, but in his third he led his class in Natural Philosophy, obtained second place in Metaphysics, and in the first class list in French and Chemistry. During the years '69-'71 he studied Theology, and wrote his M. A. thesis. His first congregation was the large and influential one at Alberton, P. E. I. There, until '89, he labored faithfully, and the happy consciousness that his labors abundant were owned of God was not denied him. In that year, he transferred his services to Campbellton, N. B. The Saturday northern trains on the I. C. R. there stop over Sunday. We cordially recommend the passengers to go and hear Carr preach.

CHRISTIE, THOMAS M. was a son of the manse. He was borne in Yarmouth, where his father, the Rev. Geo. Christie, was for a long time Presbyterian clergyman. He divided the honors with Carr during their course at college. We have seen what Carr did in his third year,—Christie went one better, and led his class in Metaphysics and Chemistry. He, too, chose the ministry for his life work, was ordained in 1872, and was, at his own request, sent as a missionary to Trinidad. Ill health early marked him for her own, but gallantly he kept to his noble work, until October, 1885, when "God's finger touched him, and he slept."

(To be continued.)

Contributed Articles.

AN ENGLISH COLLEGE FOR WOMEN.

I.

"THE Senate of the University has consented to the holding of lectures for women in the Literary Schools, by such professors and lecturers of the University as may be willing to give their services for this purpose."

A paragraph to this effect, in the *Cambridge Reporter* twenty-two years ago, caused no little excitement in literary and scholastic circles. Hardly beyond these, however, for the opinions of the general public regarding the "Higher Education of Women" were vague, to say the least. Those that were expressed were usually 'We don't want any new-fangled notions;' 'What was good enough for us is good enough for our daughters;' 'What do girls want with University lectures;'—and so forth. In Cambridge however, and in certain circles in London, more than one earnest girl-student felt her heart glow with ardour, and her pulse beat more quickly, as she realized what this short paragraph might mean to her, and to others like herself. The only education for girls attainable at that time, other than the ordinary boarding-school curriculum, was by means of private classes or lectures, got up here and there when a few kindred spirits chanced to congregate. There were a few good day-schools, but even here Classics and Mathematics were practically unattainable, and Modern Languages were only a name, not a reality. Thinking people in Cambridge and elsewhere had made every effort to get lectures delivered to women, for of course admission to those held in the various colleges of the University was out of the question. At length their efforts were crowned with success, and the Senate gave its consent to the scheme in January, 1870.

Girton College, Cambridge, was built in 1873, and now accommodates about 150 students. The course of study is exactly the same as at Newnham, both Colleges preparing their students for the Tripos examinations of the University. Newnham provides also for other examinations recognized by the University. The other colleges for women in England are, Somerville Hall, Lady Margaret Hall, and St. Hugh's Hall, Oxford; and Holloway College, near Windsor, which prepares for London and Oxford. There are also houses in London, such as Westfield Hall, for the accommodation of students working for the examinations of the University of London. Bedford and Queen's College, London, have their own staff of instructors and examiners.

I propose to give an outline of the life and work at Cambridge. The chief difference between it and Oxford is, that at the latter University residence is not obligatory, and there are some honor examinations to which women are not yet admitted. The teaching too, as far as women are concerned, is chiefly conducted by private tutors or coaches. London demands residence from neither men nor women. The two colleges for women at Cambridge are Girton and Newnham. Girton is about three

miles from town, which is, I think, its only disadvantage, but it is a great one. The three halls of Newnham College are quite distinct as regards domestic management. Each has its own dining halls, reading room, and sitting rooms. Most students have one room, but by paying extra fees two rooms can be occupied by one inmate. The single rooms are furnished with a small bed, covered in the day time to look like a couch; a writing desk and bureau combined, of dark oak, a most attractive piece of furniture; an easy chair, and an ordinary one; a closed wash-stand; an arrangement of hooks in one corner, covered by a curtain matching the bed; and a reading lamp. The floor are mostly stained and polished, and a large square rug lies in the centre. The students, of course, decorate their rooms in every imaginable way, and scarcely one but has an array of tea-cups and appendages. The rooms are heated by open fires, and towards night kettles sing merrily on most. At Girton all students have either two rooms, or one large one divided by a curtain.

The course of study at Cambridge is very special. Examinations are held for the ordinary B. A. degree, not open to women, and for the various triposes. A tripos is an examination for *honours*, the word being derived from the three-legged stool upon which the examiner was wont to sit, in the good old times. Until about 1840, every honor man at Cambridge had to take the Mathematical tripos, and only Wranglers and Senior *Optimes*, or first and second class men, were eligible as candidates for the classical tripos. All the other triposes are of modern origin,—the latest being that in Mediæval and Modern Languages, first held in 1885. Cambridge is always considered to excel in Mathematics, and Oxford in Classics, therefore one naturally looks for the first men in the former branch on the banks of the Cam, and in the latter, on those of the Isis.

Previous to 1881, women were only allowed to have the tripos papers by the courtesy of the examiners, and the results were not classified. 1874 was the first year that a woman attempted these examinations. During the year 1880, great agitation prevailed amongst the friends of higher education of women, and every effort was made to induce the Senate to allow women to become formal candidates for the triposes, and to have the results formally notified. Regular centres for correspondence were formed, and letters sent to every member of the University at all likely to approve of the scheme; the result being that more than 300 persons came from a distance to vote on Feb. 24th, 1881. The anniversary of this day is always kept at Newnham and Girton with great rejoicings. The decision of the Senate was briefly: "Women may be formally admitted to the Tripos examinations of the University under the following conditions,—(1st) Of having resided for a specified number of terms at either Newnham or Girton College, or within the precincts of the University, under the regulation of one or other of these colleges; (2) Of having passed one of a certain number of preliminary examinations." To all women who pass any one of these triposes, certificates are now formally granted by the University, declaring that they have attained to the standard of a 1st, 2nd, or 3rd class in an *Honours* examination for the B. A. degree; but this degree, for various reasons, is not conferred upon them. Candidates who fail to attain to one of these Honor classes,

may yet, in the opinion of the examiners, have attained a standard equivalent to that required for the ordinary B. A. (or Poll) degree, and a certificate to this effect will then be granted. The so-called Poll, or Pass degree, is exceedingly easy to obtain, and is only taken by men who come to college because it is 'the thing' to do. All reading men, and all women taking the complete course, work for one or other of the triposes. The length of residence necessary for this, as for the Poll degree is, on an average, three Academic years, but the time varies somewhat according to the tripos taken. Certain preliminary examinations are of course required before admission to a tripos. These are very general in character, and ensure a fundamental knowledge in the branches of a good education, including Latin, Mathematics, one Modern Language, Greek, or a second Modern Language, Divinity or Logic, and any two of History, English, Science,—the latter assuming an acquaintance with the elements of Chemistry, Physics, and Biology.

To enter Newnham College, it is only necessary to have taken a part of this examination, but the whole must be complete before attempting the tripos. Most students who divide it, complete it by the end of their first year at the latest, and still more enter a full certificate, thus being able to devote all their time to advanced work. There are informal, optional examinations, called "Mays," at the end of each year. Every instructor sends in a report of each student, and if, in the opinion of the Principal, any one is not profiting by her residence at College, she may be required to leave. The instruction given is partly provided for at the College, but is chiefly by arrangements made that the students shall attend such lectures of the University and College as are open to them. This includes nearly all. I think, with these exceptions, every College has opened its lectures to the students of Newnham and Girton, and the greatest courtesy and kindness is shown to them. The professors and lecturers are always ready to give advice and time, and the Women's Colleges owe a deep debt of gratitude to the members of the University, both individually and as a body.

I should like to say a few words here about the refusal of the Senate to grant the B. A. degree to women. It is no arbitrary act of injustice, as many people think. Some of the greatest friends to the higher education of women know that the time for it has not yet come, and were much opposed to the stir made about three years ago. To grant the degree to women would make them full members of the University, and as this institution is governed by its members (any man with an M. A. degree being eligible to vote on any question,) women would have a share in the government,—an innovation which cannot reasonably be expected to find favor in a foundation of such antiquity. And more than this, the University has a representative in Parliament. Women, as women, cannot vote, but were they members of the University, they would have a right to vote. To admit them, in short, would demand a new act of Parliament, and cause many and serious complications. The degree will no doubt come in time, and many friends of women's education feel very strongly that no agitation should be made about it now, and cannot help being indignant when hard things are said about a body to which they owe so much. Students not studying for a tripos were

incidentally referred to. Girton does not admit such, except in very special cases. But the council of Newnham thinks it only right that opportunity should be given to young women, who cannot for various reasons attempt the whole course, to spend one or two years in an intellectual centre, and to work more thoroughly than they could otherwise do for part or whole of the local examinations. Only about one-quarter of the students, however, do this; the rest enter for a tripos. When American girls first come to Cambridge, they are astonished at the small numbers of lectures per week in each course. Lectures at Cambridge are a means of stimulus and direction in reading, rather than of mere teaching. In a literary subject two, or at the most, three a week are given. Students are directed what to read, and what to avoid, and from time to time questions are set, to be answered in the form of essays, and these require careful and thorough research. There are of course certain portions of texts set for preparation, and these are read and discussed in class. A student rarely undertakes more than ten lectures a week. Mathematics are taught by private 'coaching,' two or three women working together. In Natural Science, laboratory work of course takes up many hours. Great stress is laid on teaching *how* to study, how to get the very best out of books, and how to be methodical and arrange one's work to the best advantage.

I think it most unwise for girls to go to Cambridge too young. In the first place, they lose a good deal of time in learning how to work alone, and in the second, their minds are not sufficiently mature to profit much by life in a University. Eighteen is the minimum age appointed, and I am sure that women of twenty-four or five get a great deal more pleasure and profit from a University course than younger ones. The plan of tripos work varies of course considerably with the subject. The general rule, however, for a three years' course is to get through all new work in two years, and revise during the third. It is hopeless to attempt to 'cram.' In the first place, work which has taken so long, cannot be crammed in a few days or weeks; and in the next, mere facts are practically useless for such an examination, always conducted by examiners who have not taught the candidates for at least a year before the date of the examination. A woman who has worked faithfully and steadily, if permitted to enter at all, is almost certain to pass. There have been only five failures at Newnham since the tripos were thrown open in 1881, and these were failures only as regards honours, the standard of an ordinary degree being allowed in every case. Great excitement naturally prevails as the tripos week draws near. The mathematical is the first, and begins about the 24th of May, lasting for three days of six hours each. This is the first part; and if candidates are successful they proceed to the second part, three more days of six hours. Most of the others fall together, and if undivided, last five consecutive days of six hours each. The examination lasts from 9 to 12, then, after an hour's interval, from 1 to 4. After this it is well to take a walk or drive, or play tennis, or go out to an afternoon tea. Above all, one attempts no study, and is sent to *bed early*. This programme is repeated for four more days, and at the end one hardly cares whether one has passed or failed. But one soon revives, and prepares to enjoy to the utmost the two or three weeks

left in dear old Cambridge, which it almost breaks one's heart to leave. By working conscientiously from eight to ten hours a day, there is time to do all that is necessary; more or less thoroughly of course, according to the capabilities of the student. At least one lecture a week, on some subject not connected with one's special work, should be attended. For instance, Professor Seeley's lectures on History, Mr. Gosse's on English Literature, Dr. Waldstein's on Art, Dr. Garrett's on Music, and others too numerous to mention, are open to the general public, and it is a positive duty to attend one course, or there is much danger of getting too much absorbed in special work, to the exclusion of other things.

I think perhaps, I had better say here that a *Professor* at Cambridge is always appointed by the University, and that he is required to deliver a certain number of lectures, but not to undertake any direct teaching unless he please; not to set papers for instance, or at least not to correct them. Several of the professors, however, do form classes, which meet after lecture. One of the most notable of these is Professor Seeley's "Conversation Class," at which papers are read and discussed.

Lecturers are appointed by their respective Colleges. Their lectures are usually open to the University, but sometimes a fee is charged to members of other colleges.

Readers are appointed by the University, and rank below lecturers.

Tutors reside in each college, one or more according to its size, and direct the men in their work.

Coaches are private tutors, and make their own terms.

(No. II. in next issue.)

STUDENT-LIFE IN GERMANY.

THE PERPLEXITIES OF A GERMAN MATRICULANT.

I.

As an increasing number of the graduates of Dalhousie College are annually enrolling themselves among the students of leading foreign universities, and as some of the present undergraduates of the college may be looking forward to devoting a year or two to special studies in Germany, it is proposed to give a sketch of the way in which a student here secures *ultimately* the necessary registration and matriculation. The words "secures *ultimately*" have been penned quite deliberately, for (as will appear later) the procedure is a somewhat complicated one. It is said to be the result of a wide and mature experience; but even were it otherwise, in a country where precedent is as hard to alter as the laws of the Medes and Persians, it stands in little risk of undergoing material change.

The *Verzeichniss der Vorlesungen*, or "Catalogue of Lectures" for the current semester, announced that work would begin on

Oct. 16th. As a matter of fact, however, few of the classes assembled for fully a week later. It used to be the case, much to the inconvenience of the students, that some of the professors did not turn up for a month or even six weeks after the appointed date; but a recent ordinance, all too tardily passed, has effected quite a wholesome revolution in this connection. Having heard that the process which awaited us might be begun at least a day or two before the date officially designated, four American friends set off together for the University on the morning of Thursday, Oct. 15th. In a few moments we were rapidly approaching it; and as might be anticipated, we scanned with much interest the structure which was to become for each of us a new centre of "light and leading" for all the days to come. We were duly impressed by its ornate yet modest exterior. Its transformation from a Royal Palace into an Institution of Learning has been in every sense a gain to the Empire. Crossing its broad threshold, we learned that the rumor which had reached us was quite correct, since over a hundred students had already been matriculated. Not a little pleased that we were going to steal a march upon some of our neighbours, we hurried to the Portier's quarters, and inquired where we were to proceed first. A young woman of aggravatingly deliberate demeanor, and a hungry Norddentscher who, at a table by the window was summarily disposing of a bun and some beer, happened to be the sole occupants of the room; and for a time they answered our questions only by a stare. Upon our reiterating our request somewhat more emphatically, in a manner that befitted our ruffled condition of mind, the damsel proceeded to hand us each a ticket. On mine appeared the words:—*Zulassungskarte zu der Immatriculation um 10 Uhr. No. 59.*" The other tickets were numbered respectively 57, 58, and 60. We accepted the cards with alacrity. We were still looking at them somewhat uncertainly, when we were told that we had been given the last ones that remained for issue that day; and that, as the authorities were not permitting more than 69 students to get these tickets during any twenty-four hours, we should count ourselves lucky that we had made our application no later. We felt, I trust, duly elated, but not to such an extent as to forget to ask what we were to do with the cards now that we had obtained them. We were forthwith invited to "Read it: you will see you are to return here to-morrow morning at 10 o'clock." As upon a second consultation of the *billet* we found that no date was printed upon it, we concluded that our query was not so very inane after all; hence we persisted: "Can we not do something further to-day? Must we all wait until to-morrow?" "Come again to-morrow," was all the answer we could obtain,—a rebuff which was all the more distasteful because it was launched at us in German.

So here ended the first move in our advance. Like a certain valiant commander of whom history makes record, our forces had no sooner been massed on the crest of a precipitous hill, than the order was handed to us: "Now you may march down again." We tried to take comfort in the thought that at least the first step,—though it was only a step,—had actually been taken. We had not at least been refused, as fully fifty others had been who made later application, the paltry concession of a ticket. We had imagined however, that our initiation to the privileges of a great National University would have been begun after a somewhat different manner. We had not foreseen that such a proceeding might bring one into unhallowed association with Porters and Burns, or that it might involve the disclosure of domestic eccentricities and acquaintance with the unacademic surroundings of a kitchen.

* * *

Promptly at 10 o'clock on the following morning, the four friends were again found in the Great Hall of the University. The place was already crowded by students, most of whom, as evidenced by movement and look, were striving to "learn the ropes." Some were bearing away triumphantly the little blue cards which we had viewed with such dubious complacency on the preceding morning, while others looked blue themselves, because there were no cards for them. Many were studying the numerous bulletin boards, and pencil in hand were rapidly transferring to their note book the hours and class rooms specified for lectures by the professors of the several faculties. And quite a number were wandering about vacantly in quest of some one to give them such directions as they needed. One of these poor fellows had the rashness, I observed, to ask a University *corpsman* some question as to what he was to do and where he ought to go; the answer which he received, most unmistakably condescending in its manner, plainly did not convey the desired information. Another inquirer met with a similar reception, being told to "follow the stream"; but as the current at the moment was moving strongly in half a dozen directions, the suggestion was heartlessly vague. More fortunately for us, we chanced to overhear a senior directing a friend of his to take his *Zulassungskarte up-stairs*; so taking instantly our cue, we found ourselves in a second large hall, where some fifty or sixty students were standing impatiently waiting.

As the proceedings which followed were decidedly complex, perhaps it may be as well to enumerate them separately. They served as so many additional steps towards the goal which we were resolved upon ultimately reaching.

Step No. 1. At a small table which had been placed at one side of the hall, a University official was collecting from the

applicants for Immatriculation, the little *Zulassungskarte*. We accordingly deposited our cards among the rest. If it happened that the student was a German, or one who, though a foreigner, had previously studied in a German University, he handed in at the same time such testimony of proficiency as is required in such cases; if however, he was a foreigner who was about to begin his studies in Germany, he was requested merely to produce and surrender his passport.

Step No. 2. As soon as all the cards with their accompanying documents had been secured, a door at the opposite side of the hall was opened, and we were ushered into another hall, capable of seating several hundreds of persons. The centre of it was occupied with movable chairs, neatly arranged in rows. At one side of it stood three tables, separated from each other by equal distances of about twenty feet, and each having one of the three following signatures: "Theologische Facultät," or "Juristische Facultät," or "Philosophische Facultät." No representative of the "Medizinische Facultät" was present on this occasion. Across the far end of the room ran a long narrow table, with which we were all destined to become intimately acquainted. But the students have now entered and quietly seated themselves; and six gentlemen who are already in the hall,—one of whom is the new rector, Herr Dr. Foerster, who was installed in office only yesterday,—move toward their allotted places around the distant table, draw their chairs up to it, and give evidence that they are about to take the situation seriously.

Step No. 3. The first shot is fired by the gentleman who occupies a seat at the extreme left of the table. Before him have been placed in a huge pile the various certificates, pass-ports, &c., which have been collected in the hall outside. Lifting the first of these documents, he calls for the student whose name appears upon it. The student advances, when he is requested to state his nationality, and the name of the faculty in which he wishes to study. He is then directed to pass from the table to official No. 2, while another student from the seats is summoned to take his place. It may be here stated that one is not allowed in Berlin to matriculate in more than *one* faculty. Hence I was compelled to content myself with "Theology," although in Leipzig a few years ago no objection was offered to my being matriculated as a student of "Theology and Philosophy."

Step No. 4. Moving away from official No. 1, we approach the rector, whose seat as inquisitor placed him second in the series. Before this gentleman rested a pile of immense sheets of paper, across the top of which was printed in flaming capitals: "GUILIELMI II, IMPERATORIS GERMANICI, BORUSSORUM REGIS." Upon more minute examination afterwards, the document was

found to measure 16 x 21 inches! It contained various blanks, which were duly filled by inserting statements as to our name, our nationality, the faculty selected, and the date of registration, followed by the signature of the rector. This copious sheet declared among other things that the recipient of it had been regularly enrolled among the citizens of the University of Berlin. As each of us in turn was confronted by it, the sight was accompanied by the fear that we might be expected to carry it away with us; but, for a time at least, we were spared this infliction. The paper was passed instead *across the table* to official No. 6, who did not fail to exact its full worth before he consented to part with it. But of the interview which accompanied the gift, and of one or two intervening incidents by which the morning was marked, I shall write in a subsequent letter.

LOUIS H. JORDAN,

Berlin, Oct. 29th, 1891.

Exchanges.

THE Edinburgh *Student* of November 11th, has a portrait and sketch of the life of Professor Seth, who has lately been appointed to the Chair of Logic and Metaphysics at that University. The sketch is written by the Emeritus professor, A. Campbell Fraser. We thank the *Student* for its generous mention of the GAZETTE among its other contemporaries.

THE thanks of the students are due to Professor James Seth for a copy of the Glasgow *Herald* of Nov. 20th, containing the Rectorial address of the Rt. Hon. G. J. Goschen, M. P., this year's Lord Rector of the University of Edinburgh, and No. 2. of Hodder and Stoughton's *Bookman*, a most interesting collection of literary news notes, book-notices and other miscellany. The *Bookman* quotes from *Ridicula Literaria*, Klotz's advice on modern book-reviewing. "Read the preface, and transcribe what the author himself says of the object and plan of the book. Then run through the contents picking out a short list of the most important things. Last of all cast a rapid glance here and there throughout and copy out the passages that seem best. By this means you will be able easily to review two books in an hour." The thoughtful reader may perhaps detect here some gentle irony on the vices of our too busy age, an age in which the advice as to the first essential of a rabbit-pie (to catch the rabbit) is beginning to be regarded as an antiquated notion.

THE *Cornell Era* of November 20th is the "Football number." The leading article begins thus, "Probably no one thing affords more exercise, more amusement, and more wholesome pleasure to

a creature than a ball." So philosophically does he begin his history of the sport, that not satisfied with the earliest mention of the game he finds the germs of fallball in the monkeys tossing cocoa-nuts! The author must be an 'honor man' in philosophy. The article is a very interesting one altho' not much additional light is thrown on the history of the game. It does not mention how the "Association" method of play got its name. It is from the fact that the followers of the strict "foot" game first organized what was called the "Football Association" in 1863. The "Rugby union" was not organized until 1871. The Americans have introduced many modifications of the Rugby game. Altogether one cannot regret the conservatism which led our Maritime Union to adopt the simple Rugby rules without any changes.

"MIDST the mortar boards" of the *Varsity* usually has some clever little humorous pieces. *College Times* asks why bank cashiers come from the United States to Toronto, and says that it must be because its a good place to run to; but the Pine Hill man, whom the GAZETTE was after with a stick last winter, must acknowledge himself beaten when he reads this from another college contemporary:

A young man went out to call,
And had on a bran new prince;
He placed his heel on a banana peel,
And has'nt bananawhere since.

Even Hood needn't have been ashamed of this last assault on our language.

College Notes.

MISS CHAMBERLAIN, who writes the article, 'An English College for women,' for the GAZETTE is a graduate of Newnham, and was first in the Mediæval and modern Languages Tripos. She is at present Reader in German at Bryn Mawr College, Philadelphia.

A GENERAL students' meeting held on Dec. 7th, elected the following officers for next session, ('92-'93). *President*, D. G. Mackay; *Vice-Presidents*, C. M. Woodworth, F. E. Rice; *Secretary*, J. D. MacKay; *Executive Committee*, These officers, and J. Montgomery, E. J. Meyer, J. W. Logan.

REV. DYSON HAGUE, rector of St. Paul's church, opened the course of Sunday afternoon meetings on Sunday, the 22nd ult. His subject was, "Some Difficulties in the way of Christianity," and it was handled in a forcible and earnest manner as all Mr. Hague's subjects are. President Forrest presided and made some

introductory remarks, briefly sketching the course in view for the winter. Mr. Hague is always a welcome visitor at Dalhousie.

THE Dalhousie *Progress* has appeared at last and on the whole is fairly satisfactory. It is true there are features that might be improved, but notwithstanding we trust that its purpose will be fulfilled. It gives a short sketch of the history of Dalhousie and a detailed account of the various faculties and curricula. The great fault seems to be the want of "cuts." Mr. Montgomery had the issue in charge.

A PLEASURE-excursion on Halifax harbor in December! Not a very usual thing in the Blue-nose city: This, however, is what a few of the students had the privilege of enjoying on the 5th, when a party of twenty went up the harbor thro' the Basin on one of Mr. W. H. Harrington's steamers. A finer and brighter day than this was is not usual at this time of year. After touching for a few minutes at the wharf at Prince's Lodge, we left the steamer at Four-mile House to walk back to town. We left the wharf bidding safe return to Mr. Harrington and our thanks with all the heartiness of a student's tiger.

BELOW is the number of students studying at the University this year:—

Undergraduates in Arts, Letters and Science.....	93
General Students " "	71
Undergraduates in Law.....	55
General students in Law.....	12
Undergraduates in Medicine.....	40
	—
Total studying in all the Faculties.....	271
Deduct studying in both Arts and Law.....	12
" " Medicine and Arts.....	4
	—
Total number at the University.....	255

AT the first regular meeting of the Philomathic Society this session the following were elected to hold office for the year beginning March 30th, 1892. President, Geo. Arthur; Vice-Presidents, A. W. McKay, (Arts), R. F. O'Brien, (Sc.), John Montgomery, (Law), W. F. Cogswell, (Med.); Secy-Treas., H. Putnam; Executive committee officers and J. W. Logan, Prof. Macgregor and Miss Hay. The president, Mr. Webster, read a paper before the society on the Fletcher stone which was found at Yarmouth over eighty years ago. The stone bears an inscription which has been the subject of much conjecture. The various theories which have been advanced to account for its origin were taken up in detail and discussed by Mr. Webster. A discussion of the points raised by the writer followed in which Professors MacMechan and Lawson took part.

We understand that correspondence has been undertaken with a view of getting a professor from some neighboring college to

lecture before the society. Papers on popular subjects in Philosophy, History, and Science have been promised for every meeting next session.

This Society, with its rapidly increasing membership, promises to be of great benefit to the students.

THE goal posts are down. The football is dead for a year. The ropes are coiled up and stowed away with the banner of the black and gold which was wont to "brave the breeze" on the grounds of the Royal Blues. Going over the list of all the contests in which Dalhousie was engaged we find that out of SEVEN matches played we only suffered ONE defeat. We think that Captain Bill has no need to repent him of the men he has led to victory against the odds they have contended against, and we are sure his men do not repent them of their leader. The trophy is held this year by none of the teams in the city League. It is hoped that for next year's series of matches more explicit regulations will be framed—regulations which will provide for every possible emergency. We should like, too, to see the league embrace all the clubs in the maritime union.—*Vive Rugby!*

A YOUNG hopeful in one of the city schools handed in the following original exercise in British history to his teacher:

Ceesors invason of briton 55 b c he came over from rome and Landed eighty ships on shores of Kent the britons lined there shores with horse feet and charuts and suamed the beech and the romans fired volleys of stone which made the britons to move back apiece the romans were afiard to jump until the stand bearer of the legend crys leep comards and the hole 10 thousand lept on shore and fot there way feersely to the land the romans formed a clom when the britons beheld the clom they gave up and returned to the shore a wild storm was reagin whitch destroyed all his ships Ceesor then made plans with the natives to came back and fite the folloing year 54 b c he then saled back to Golt Ceesor came back the following summer 55 b c the britons were prepaired under Cassivarones Cessor waded across the Thimes and took the strong wholes of Cassivarones who was a sort of fortified forrest and compledled him to sew for piece and then went back to rome.

Another thus expresses himself on the subject of ventilation.

We shud keep ourselfes clene becaze it makes us helthly ther are pores or tubs all over our body millions of them and when we get ourselfe hete we purspire and mater comes all over our body and cooles us of we shud have venterlater 2 or 3 inch from the ceelin to let the air out and 1 at the flore to let it in people who work in clos shops and slepe in small beadroms are sometims found ded in the morning breathing there breth over agin sum workman sumtims dye.

Among the Colleges.

OUT of 501 students at Johns Hopkins, 295 are pursuing courses as graduates.

IOWA State University has a gymnasium class for professors three times a week.

ANNUAL athletic meetings are held at Yale to find out the material of the freshman class.

400 young ladies were unable to gain admission to Vassar College, the institution being filled to its utmost capacity.

A RELIGIOUS census was taken of the class of '95 at Harvard, under the auspices of the Harvard Y. M. C. A., at the time of their registration.

THE Student's Christian Association of the University of Michigan offers a four year's course in Biblical instruction, after which a certificate will be given.

By a misprint in this column we gave Wellesley 100 students instead of 700. We hope the friends of this institution will forgive us this serious blunder.

THE University of Chicago recently purchased 280,000 volumes and 120,000 dissertations in all languages. More than 600 students have entered already for the first year's course, which it is expected, will commence in 1892.

THE Cornell freshman class is 600, the largest in the history of the institution. Much interest is being shown in the endowment of a Cornell pew in the new undenominational church at Berlin. Professor Schurman, formerly a professor in our own college, is at the head of the new Sage School of Philosophy, which is attracting many advanced students, some of whom have studied several years in German Universities. There is a full corps of instructors. Professor Schurman is the author of "The Ethical Import of Darwinism," "Belief in God," (which is attracting much attention in this country and in Europe), and several other works of note. He will commence the publication of a bi-monthly magazine of general philosophy about January.

THE University of New Brunswick, as noticed in our last issue, is establishing a course of University extension lectures in St. John. The aim of the movement is to take the University to all who cannot go to it. Its method of doing this is by establishing in neighbouring centres, courses of systematic lectures delivered by specially appointed University lecturers on the ordinary subject of a University curriculum. The movement first took shape in England in 1850, and since then it has spread widely over Great Britain and America. Toronto University was the first to take it up in Canada, and now we have New Brunswick in line. The scheme is one of real educational work, and will, we trust, open up a way to higher education,

and be of general benefit to the community. A Canadian University Extension Association has been formed.

THE University of New Brunswick has a new professor in Philosophy and Political Economy, Prof. W. C. Murray, a New Brunswick man who has won high distinction at Edinburgh University. Prof. Murray's inaugural address was on "The Function of Philosophy in a Liberal Education." The function of philosophy in a liberal education which our Arts colleges professed to give, was to develop the students' reflective, critical, and judging capacities. Independence of thought was the great aim of all true philosophical teaching. At some length Prof. Murray described those mental characteristics which philosophical study tends to produce. The intimate connection between the discussions of metaphysics and the creeds of churches and of individuals was illustrated by an analysis of the effects of the accepted solution of the relation of faith to reason, and of the adopted ideal of the good life. After a slight discussion of the importance of psychology to the educator, and of political economy to the statesman, Mr. Murray summed up as follows:

"On behalf of philosophy as an educational instrument, I submit these plans. In the language of the faculty psychology, philosophical studies discipline those faculties which are essential to sound judgment; natural science cultivates quickness of perception; mathematics, consecutive reasoning; while the tendency of philosophical thinking is to unify, to weave together, to synthesize, to systemize. The relating of part to part implies weighing, valuing, judgment. Again the different branches of philosophy recommend themselves by their important contributions to the information required for the problems which daily arise around us. Theology and science are entwined in the folds of metaphysics; logic casts a light on the pathway of every reasoner who bears it with him; ethics present us with the plan of a good life; psychology places on the table of the educator, reports on the characteristics and development of the instruments which he perfects: political economy is the statesman's guide book.

Dallusiensia.

ONE—two—three. Up—i—dee. Hump—hrey—G.

(STUDENT to Prof. on foot-ball field): "Doctor, that game ought to be worth a pass in history!"

THE man of long suffering does not think that bag-pipes were in vogue as early as the 16th century. Why! man they were played in Eden.

ONE of the Pine Hill band never misses a single lecture of the Fourth Year English Class. Wherefore is this so? Perpendicularum.

THE festive "deacon" has another little intrigue on his hands. *Mac's well* up in matters of this kind, but a foot-ball field is not the place for a romance. Verb. sap. &c.

THE Dresden Row General is not a success in diplomacy. He made a bold stroke, but *pshaw!* the opera glasses were returned, and apologies were the order of the day.

THE little freshman from Guysboro rendered his party noble service in the late election trial. His splendid capture of the fugitives was a magnificent achievement for a *new man*.

NOTICE.—Freshmen are warned not to mar the glassy surface of the painted panels in the hall ways on pain of a fine of five cents.

By order of, SOPHS.

WE saw a curious Christmas toy in the window of a fancy store the other day. It represented an old woman picking a goose, "plucking" it as some would say. How suggestive of the time, we thought. If it only had the professor's gown, and the goose were a—a—a—sophomore, it would be a good hit. How easily an automaton might be constructed to represent a freshman when he first "appears out" with his cane. The internal mechanism need not be very complex. Just enough to make the cane strike the floor three times and then make a throw out in front with methodical regularity. Then have the look on the face that of one who imagines that everybody is looking at him, and especially at the cane. A good artist might make a fortune out of this hint.

FRESHMAN (In the reading-room to a pompous-looking Soph)—Did you know Christmas and New Year's didn't come on the same day of the week this year.

SOPH: (scornfully) No, I didn't. But I *do* know they *do* come on the same day of the week.

FRESHMAN: No, they don't.

SOPH: (producing his handbook). Look there, Freshie. Christmas Friday, Dec. 25th, New Year's, Friday, Jan. 1st.

FRESHMAN: *Yes*. Jan. 1st, 1892. I said they didn't come on the same day of the week *this year*.

Sophomore suddenly remembers a book he wants to see in the library, Freshie looks around to see how many witnessed his triumph.

Personals.

J. N. MCLEAN, sophomore of '88, is editor-in-chief of the *Manitoba College Journal*.

C. E. McMILLAN, B. A., has been appointed principal of the Port Hawkesbury Academy.

DR. SCHURMAN, Dean of the School of Philosophy at Cornell, was recently received into full communion of the Baptist Church at Utica, N. J.

J. MACDONALD OXLEY, B. A. '74, has resigned his position in the Marine Department, Ottawa, and is now with the Sun Life Assurance Company, Montreal.

REV. LOUIS H. JORDAN, M.A., whom many of the GAZETTE'S readers will remember as one of its editors in days gone by, is now studying at the University of Berlin. Mr. and Mrs. Jordan spent a year in going "round the world." An interesting contribution from Mr. Jordan's facile pen appears in another column.

THE annual dues of members of the class of '91 (Arts), are payable before Jan. 1st, 1892, to J. MONTGOMERY, Secy.-Treas. Dalhousie Law School, Halifax.

New Books.

GRADUATED PASSAGES FOR FIRST SIGHT TRANSLATION.—Bendell & Laurence, Cambridge University Press.

The syndics of the Cambridge University Press, England, have favored us with a copy of the above work. As its name shows, it is intended to provide extracts from Greek and Latin authors for translation at sight. As the value of this method of instruction is now well recognized, and its practise generally adopted in schools and colleges, its importance need not be dwelt upon. It accustoms the learner to rely on his native wit and previous reading, and thus trains him to do without the English crutch that may be sometimes necessary to the backward, but is more often harmful. A teacher can save himself time and the trouble of making his own selections by procuring this book, where he will find all that he wants ready to his hand. The compilers have ranged freely through the classical works usually read in school and college, and have shown good taste and judgment in their selections. The extracts are arranged in order of difficulty to suit the various stages of a learner's knowledge, and though some of them may be thought too long for a single lesson, this admits of an easy remedy. A few brief notes have been added at the end of the book, giving the English of some unusual words or suggesting their meaning by tracing them to their derivations. The ample room given to each extract and the clear type are at once helpful and pleasant to the reader's eye.

VICTOR HUGO'S *Hermani*, a small volume, published in good form, with clear type and stiff paper by D. C. Heath & Co., 1891. It is edited, with an excellent introduction and critical and explanatory notes, by John E. Matzke, Ph. D., of Johns Hopkins University.

Hermani, or "Castilian Honour," composed in 1829, is VICTOR HUGO'S best drama, exhibiting all the peculiarities and eccentricities of his style. As a dramatic work it is full of striking imperfections; but its great redeeming features which predominate, are poetic effusion, warmth of feeling, eloquence of passion, and eulogy of honour, and all this emphasized in such a manner that an audience cannot but be pleased on hearing it recited. In the form in which it is published, it will serve as an interesting and instructive class-book.

D. C. HEATH & Co. will publish shortly Racine's *Esther*, edited by Prof. I. H. B. Spiers of the William Penn Charter School, Philadelphia; *Business Law*, by Alonzo P. Weed, a well-known attorney; and a beginner's book in old English, by George Hempl, Professor of English in the University of Michigan.

BLACKWOOD & SONS publish a new and enlarged edition of Helena Fawcett's Shakespeare's Female Characters.

VOLUME VIII of the English Writer's Series is out. It embraces the period from Surrey to Spencer. The last few volumes are very shy about coming to our library.

It now seems that Boswell, whom we never supposed to have any life of his own, but who is only known by another man's life, did do something besides follow Johnson about with a little note book and an affectionate leer, for Mr. Percy Fitzgerald has found enough material to write his biography in two volumes.

GINN & Co. seem to be going into magazine printing pretty extensively. They announce yet another periodical for next year—*School and College*, devoted to secondary and higher education; edited by Ray Greene Huling. In the table of contents for January, there is an article called "When should the study of Philosophy begin?" that should interest our young philosophers.

MACMILLAN & Co., continue to announce Stopford Brooke's History of Early English Literature; and the book continues not to appear. A note to the publishers elicited the information that they could not fix any date for publication. We have a suspicion, however, that it will be out before long. We are anxious to see this work as the very highest expectations are entertained of it; and because it is the one that Prof. MacMechan will use in his classes.

It is not generally known that one of America's best historical writers and editors, John Foster Kirk, is a Nova Scotian, born in or near Truro. His history of Charles the Bold, is recommended to our Third Year as one of the best works on that fiery prince and his times; and it ought to be in the library. (Take the hint some of ye *senior millionaires*.) He is the editor of a new edition of Prescott's works, published by Lippincott, Philadelphia. One style is called the Students' edition; and contains each of the works in one volume with the maps and illustrations, for the modest price of \$1 a volume.

BELCHER'S FARMER'S ALMAMACK, 1892. This standard work is again before the public, and it maintains its well-won character of a store-house of useful information for all classes of the population. It gives us the Royal Family; the members of the Senate and House of Commons, and Privy Council, all the Provincial Legislature, all the lawyers, doctors, clergymen and militia of Nova Scotia; the usual Calendar notes of weeks and months and seasons, tides, changes of the moon; tariff rates, &c., &c. It is an invaluable handbook for constant reference in the office, in the library, and in the domestic circle.

Law Department.

CHRISTMAS HOLIDAYS.

THE wheels of time have come round to another Christmas season. As time has rolled on from year to year, swifter they seem to turn till now the Christmas of a year ago seems as yesterday, and that of the coming year already seems not far away. It is well that as year by year our Christmas grows less joyous and more Puritanic, that we should pause to note the features and customs of the Merry Christmas and Happy New Year of ye olden time, and whence they sprung.

Christmas Holidays, by canonical computation, commence December 16th and end on February 1st, but in common custom they comprise the fortnight beginning with Christmas Eve.

We have been taught to regard Christmas Eve as the anniversary of the time when angels appeared to the Bethlehem shepherds proclaiming, "Peace on earth, good will towards men." It is an anniversary and as such answers as well as if it were the right one, so we shun inquiry.

The date occurs near the Winter Solstice, and the Christmas customs seem to have existed before the landing of Caesar. It is about the anniversary of the Roman Saturnalia when Rome put on her holiday attire and the streets were decked with green for a festive season. The northern nations, too, had a celebration of the sun again turning back over the northern zones. The Druids then cut the mistletoe and the Saxon burned the Yule log while they beguiled themselves over their wassail bowls.

By the Druids the mistletoe was regarded with veneration and the oak was sacred to Tutanés, who corresponded to the Phoenician Baal. When the sacred anniversary arrived the priests and people moved to the oak too which two white bullocks were bound. One priest ascended the tree and cut the plant with a golden knife and another caught it as it fell. The two bullocks, together with human victims, were sacrificed to the god, while the people took bits of the mistletoe to their homes to hang over the entrances to propitiate and shelter sylvan

deities in seasons of frost and cold. Many other legends cluster around its name. It has always been a Christmas decoration in England, but it is now scarcely found on the oak. Considerable quantities are grown on the apple trees in the west of England and shipped to London at the proper time for house and shop decorations. In the rural districts there is a practice of putting a piece above the door, under which the first fair one who passes is liable to be kissed by any lord of creation who chooses. Though passing away it is still the truest emblem of Merry Christmas.

The custom of burning the Yule log comes from our Scandanavian ancestors. During the olden time it was drawn from the tree to its place on the fire. Hats were raised as it passed. With it, it was said, old wrongs and heart burnings were burnt out and its cheerful flickering caused the liquor to bubble in the wassail bowls. The half burned log was used to light its fellow of the next year, and was regarded as a great preventative of fire in the house where it was kept. It was thought to be a great misfortune for a squinting or barefooted person or a flat-footed woman to enter the room while it was burning.

Christmas Day was among the early Christians a time for fasting and prayer. But as time went on the festivities of the pagan converts, which they were loth to give up, caused the Fathers much anxiety. Especially was this so with the merry making and jollities which took place about the Winter Solstice. What it was found impossible to stop, was turned towards a different object, and the Christmas season took the place of the pagan festivals and ceremonies.

During the Saxon and Norman times the Christmas celebrations were of the freest and most joyous character. The most realistic and vivid description of the Christmas of the time is found in *Marmion* as follows :

“ On Christmas eve the bells were rung,
On Christmas eve the mass was sung ;
That only night in all the year,
Saw the stoleed priest his chalice rear.
The damsel donned her kirtle sheen ;
The hall was dressed with holly green ;
Forth to the wood did merry men go,
To gather in the mistletoe.

Then opened wide the baron's hall
To vassal, tenant, serf, and all ;
Power laid his rod of rule aside,
And ceremony doffed his pride.
The heir with roses in his shoes,
That night might village partner choose ;
The lord, underogating share
The vulgar game of “ post and pair.”
Ali hailed with uncontrolled delight
Aud general voice, the happy night
That to the cottage as the crown
Brought tidings of salvation down.

The fire with well dried logs supplied,
Went roaring up the chimney wide ;
The huge hall-table's oaken face
Scrubbed till it shone, the day to grace,
Bore then upon its massive board
No mark to part the squire and lord.
Then was brought in the lusty brawn
By old, blue-coated serving man ;
Then grim boar's head frowned on high
Crested with bays and rosemary.
Well can the green garbed ranger tell
How, when, and where, the monster fell,
What dogs before his death he tore,
And all the baiting of the bear.
The wassail round in good, brown bowls
Garnished with ribbons, mithely trowls,
There the huge sirloin reeked ; hard by,
Plum porridge stood and Christmas pie.
Nor failed old Scotland to produce
At such high tide her savory goose.
Then came the merry makers in,
And carols roared with blithesome din ;
If unmelodious was the song,
It was a hearty note and strong,
Who lists may in their mummery see
Traces of ancient mystery ;
White shirts supplied the masquerade,
And smutted cheeks the vices made ;
But oh ! what makes richly dight,
Can boast of houses half so light ;
England was merry England when
Old Christmas brought his sports again
Then Christmas leached the nightest ale,
Then Christmas told the merriest tale ;
A Christmas gashed all would cheer
The poor man's heart through half the year.
Still sings in our northern clime
Some remnants of the good old time.”

In the above fine description we have described the Old English Christmas fare. About the boar's head and peacock there are pleasing legends. The history of the maskers may be traced from the Saturnalia where men and women changed dresses, up along with Miracle plays, where the efforts to change pagan plays to Christian is seen. Stow recounts a "splendid mummerie" before Richard in 1377. Fabian notes another where twelve aldermen of Colchester appeared before Henry as maskers at his Christmas court in Colchester. The maskers used to go from house to house demanding admittance for Saint George and his merry men. The custom was abolished by Henry VIII on account of the robberies committed under it.

In the Tudor period the Lord of Misrule was regularly chosen in each parish to lead the multifarious revels. We read at one, that the mayor of London had several "contending without quarrel or offence which could make the rarest sport." Oxford and Cambridge both had this officer, (Christmas racket?). At the Inns of the Court he almost assumed royalty. Chaplains preached before him. In 1635 he expended £2000 from his own purse and at the end of his twelve days reign was knighted. The following commission was given by Richard Evelyn, Lord Deputy of Surrey. "Imprimis, I give free leave to Owen Flood, my trumpeter, gentleman, to be Lord of Misrule of all good orders for 12 days, and also I give free leave to said Owen Flood to command all and every person or persons whatsoever, as well servants as others, to be at his command whensoever he shall sound his trumpets or music, to do good service as though I were present myself. I give full power and authority to his lordship to break up all locks, bolts, and doors, and latches, and to fling all doors out of hinges to come at those who presume to disobey his lordship's commands. God Save the King." Droll costumes were assumed and much mischief done by these lords. Prynne in his *Histriomastix* paints it worse than a heathen ceremony.

The Calvinists set themselves against the observance of Christmas, and have seemingly done much to tame Christmas jollities. The Church of England has always done much towards making a merry and beautiful celebration. It is the practice of the Roman Catholics to celebrate mass at midnight, at daybreak,

and at a subsequent hour. The powers of darkness are supposed to prostrate during the night and hence the beautiful superstition which Marcellus mentions in Hamlet.

"It faded at the crowing of the cock.
Some say that ever 'gainst that season comes
Wherein our Saviour's birth is celebrated.
This bird of dawning singeth all night long.
And then, they say, no spirit dares stir abroad;
The nights are wholesome; then no planets strike
No fairy takes, nor witch hath power to charm,
So hallowed and so gracious is the time."

Santa Claus and the Christmas tree both so popular in America are of German origin, and both have quaint and interesting histories.

Christmas decorations were formerly more profuse with green than now. The charities were the widest of all the year. Old quarrels were forgotten; the inmates of charitable institutions were treated to plum pudding and turkey, and even domestic animals were remembered. In Auld Farmers address to his mare we have:

"A guid New Year I wish thee Maggie,
Hae there's a ripp for thy auld baggie."

The Waits, (see Tatler, No. 222, where young women complained of loss of sleep,) were probably at first minstrels at the King's court. Then we find them as town musicians, sometimes blind men. They had a rather merry time singing around before the houses during the night. In London and Westminster they had official recognition till 1820.

Carols, like many other features of the Christmas season in England, are not much known here; more's the pity. They aim to celebrate in joyous yet devout strains the nativity of the Saviour. In 1562, John Tyndal was licensed for printing "Certayne goodly Carowles to be songe to the glory of God," and again we find "Crestenmos Carowles auctorised by my Lord of London." Goldsmith in the Vicar of Wakefield speaks of the parishoners as unsophisticated because they kept up the Christmas carols. In England children and sometimes the choirs of the village churches serenade the principal houses in the parish with carols set to beautiful airs. One of the finest thus begins:

"God rest you merry gentlemen
Let nothing you dismay,
Remember Christ our Saviour
Was born upon this day."

Many other customs with their legends and histories deserve mention here, but space forbids. The Christmas games, the New Year, the medieval legend of the Magi, similar to that in Ben Hur, we pass. The old festivities seem to be passing away. They are not what they were, even in our childhood. We confess enough barbarism to sadly regret it, and we hope that looking back over the habits of the olden time our day will resurrect the customs of the past to make a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

THE PRISONER OF CHILLON.

MONT was happy. Smiles wreathed his chubby face and dimpled his rosy cheeks. He made no attempt at concealment, but simply and unreservedly abandoned himself to hilarity and boisterous contemplations. Lest the great depths and hidden floods of his cachinnations should be broken up, he had taken the precaution to unloosen his vest. All week long he had been scheming. And John is a schemer; every one admits that. Some go so far as to say he is a very Macchiavelli in the nineteenth century. Saturday night this scheming was to have its culmination. And that eventful night had come, and as John surveyed the fearful riot he was soon to let loose in the mock Parliament and beheld the piteous extremity of the administration he literally, like a modern Nero, made uproariously merry. As the corner-posts of the government began to falter, the member for Kingston called the mirthful John into the corridor. His festive air subsided into one of all-conquering importance. But the corridor is not secret enough for the Kingston member. John, nothing loathe, stepped into the class room. Behind the door stood the member for Sackville. John suddenly receives a chuck under the chin and a confiding pressure from his illusionary friend who also at the same time vanishes from the room. The door closes with a frightful and ominous bang, the key is turned and John is alone with his arch-torturer from Sackville. Quick as a flash the tormentor is upon him, and with a herculean fling deposits him in a heap in the corner. Recovering, the captive flutters about the windows and is again hurled to the ground. Then the violent treatment is changed to one of endearing embrace, and solicitous words are purred into the ears of the infuriated but helpless prisoner. But why prolong the story in all its pitiful details. Suffice it that John makes his escape by a drop from the window. But his serenity had departed, and he looked enquiringly about at the men who were laughing and laughing last.

MOCK PARLIAMENT.

MOMENTOUS have been the crises in the Mock Parliament this year. Parties and governments have come and gone in a night, and old and tried politicians have acknowledged that popular caprice in this historic chamber is beyond the ken and cunning of their keenest anticipations and shrewdest arts. But it was only when in our last writing we had to chronicle the overthrow of the gifted Dockrill administration that the appalling extent of the conflagration among the cabinets became apparent. Seemingly the vandals were terrified by their dire and unholy work for they hadn't the hardihood to enquire in the next immediate days what ill-starred martyrs were being robed for the stake. It took several blasts from the heralds to arouse the interest of the satiated populace in the latest-given administrator of the kingdom. Then they learned that the speaker, from his castle home in Cape Breton, had of his good pleasure and certain knowledge been pleased to call to Her Majesty's councils, Sir. Knight of the Crested Mane, Randolph Murray. Sir. Murray vouchsafed his willingness to take up the cares of state and, if need be, have his body broken on the wheel, if by so doing popular government might not lack its diurnal victim. The knight speedily fortified himself with reading the Lives of the Saints, and imbuing himself with the spirit of Cranmer's last moments. Then he looked about for like heroic stuff to keep him company in his march to the Tarpeian rock. He found it in the irredoubtable but resigned Doyle, the puissant but long suffering Rowlings, and the chivalrous but patient Borden. The country side applauded the choice, for they were all good men and true, of valiant arm and knightly service, none daring to make them afraid. But to one man the array of knightly mettle was as a dumb show and a quixotic undertaking. Sir Ricardo Brindle-Back Bennett was in the lists, and if ever the fame of a dark and dank conspirator should strike fear among new and untried rulers, terrorism should now be rampant. Not a day passed over the heads of the newly proclaimed government before he had bought a bowie knife and borrowed the bludgeon that killed Davy Crockett's coon. But where was the knight with "fair round belly, with good capon lin'd"? Was he idle in these troublous young days of the

cabinet formation? Not much! Sir John is abreast of the times. He has lowered his drawbridge, ferried the channel, and is dickering for smokeless powder. Well may the four ministers look askance and well may they in feverish hot haste issue a manifesto in smooth words seeking reciprocity with the United States, a country to the south and many miles from Jericho. The populace are invited to discuss the proposal on the evening of Saturday, November 21st., in the council halls of the nation. Thither they came in large numbers, squires and ældermen, sheriffs and borough-men, the pick and the chosen of the wise men from all the counties. Thither drew Sir Ricardo, and his horse was heavily mailed as it pirouetted down the lists. But noticeable among the delegates was a man of eagle eye and chivalrous mien. A whisper of enquiry ran about as to who the stranger of noble presence was. He proved to be a Chieftain of Bona Vista, which is a populous region several leagues beyond the Welch Mountains. Sir John was not present, being still in France. Rumour has it that his detention is due to the young Dauphiness. In deep voice, a venerable patriarch, known as the Knight of the Three Doublets, Sir Milton Woodworth, called the notables to order. The Knight of the Crested Mane said at once, that deferring to the importunations of a number of coutiers, he was pleased to appoint Sir Ricardo, Master of the Royal Swine. The honored knight curtesied lowly and said he would see the premier bark his shins first. The premier then called the attention of the assemblage to the proposal that for seven days had been placarded outside the outer walls of the principal castles. When explained in detail it proved to be an arrangement whereby for the freedom of our 903 deer in the American preserves we would concede our preserves for browsing purposes to 36,001 American deer. Sir Launcelot Russell acquiesced at once in what the premier said and told Sir Ricardo that his horse was crawling out of its armour. Sir Ricardo said that was all right and it was an anomalous horse that hadn't ribs. The distinguished chieftan from Bona Vista, Sir A. B. Morine, then arose, doffed his helmet, adjusted his eye-glasses, felt for his cigarette case, and looked benevolently at the ministers of state. This politic move secured the sympathetic glances of the ministry. He had them now 17,000 feet above sea-level. He wanted *disjecta membra* for his microscope, and he dropped them. They fell, fell, and thinking the demnition bow-wows were at their throats, commenced to prepare their advent chant, Hail, horrors, hail! receive thy new possessors. But Sir Roweduff Rowlings hadn't learnt parachute jumping for nothing, and in mid-air he gave a trapeze performance that indicated squalls five miles behind. He selected a soft spot to alight, looked around for the Bona Vista Chieftan and invited

him once more into the tourney. The heralds blew their blasts, the illustrious knights galloped forward, the squall broke, the combatants fell into one another's arms, and as they couldn't tell each other for their helmets, each man slew himself mightily hip and thigh. When they were discovered through the dust by a searching party, the meeting adjourned, and Sir Ricardo mounting his Roxinante, went out in search of wind mills. We should have mentioned that this knight, in the early part of the evening, made a speech, doing himself infinite credit and proving him to be a very Bayard, without fear and without reproach. He made dark references to Warwick, the King Maker, which aroused much curiosity.

The following Saturday evening more notables came to the assemblage and the learned discussion was continued with great vigor. Sir John, who appeared to be a little out of breath from his French excursion, was the first speaker. He vouched for his loyalty to the state, and bared his neck to shew where his sovereign's sword had hung heavily upon his golden locks when being knighted. Sir Roweduff here presented a petition for a new pair of gauntlets. Filed for 19th century antiquarians. Sir John was followed on the main resolution by the Archduke Wilhelm von Thompson. Sir John undertook to interpret him for a short time, but the Archduke said he could speak for himself, and Sir John went out to find how much Falstaff weighed when last alive. Sir Galahad Trueman followed the Archduke, also speaking in favor of the proposal. The gay and caustic Sir Blackwood Graham, of Brookfield Bluffs, then made a number of neat and polished remarks, eliciting much commendation. A dark Northman, with a drooping coal black mustache, and the only Viking present, Joseph Avard of Fulton, delivered a well reasoned speech on behalf of the manifesto. He was succeeded by a young man bearing the historic name of Edgar Melville Fulton, of Truro Parks. He protested against the manifesto. Her Majesty had a very kindly nod for the young knight and his attractive sidelights. The dashing cavalier, Sir Sagramour Robertson, Lord Chamberlain to Her Majesty, then entertained the meeting with some humorous aspects of the proposed scheme. Lord Beowulf de la McCart, the tallest man present, followed with a number of well seasoned arguments against the scheme. Sir Knight of the Crested Mane then concluded the learned debate, and with hardly a dissenting voice the proposal was adopted. The new ministry still had their wickets standing. On December 5th a small number of the delegates met to conclude some minor transactions and it seemed to be the prevailing opinion that another session should not be held until a favorable moon of next fall.

Personals.

STEWART FAIRWEATHER has successfully passed his final in New Brunswick, and now enjoys the functions and emoluments that pertain to a St. John attorney-at-law.

THE latest news of JOHN A. SINCLAIR relates that he has been sworn in a barrister. "Jack" has hosts of friends in St. John, but he strongly inclines to follow "Billy" Bowser, and go west.

EVERY one has a kindly remembrance of KING KELLEY. He also has been admitted to the bar of New Brunswick. King is built on practical principles, and ever since he opened office in St. John has been doing exceedingly well.

FRED. FAIRWEATHER is playing the old game of "bobbing up" serenely. Looking upon admission to the bar as a matter of "wait till your turn comes," he has signalized the year by his election as a councillor in the noble county of Kings, N. B.

WE can personally congratulate "BOB" MURRAY upon his successful "final" in New Brunswick, as he is with us and of us, despite his favoured position as an attorney. He will be able to open his office in St. John immediately upon his departure from here in the spring.

CHAMBERS DECISION.

PAINT v. GILLIES.

Before MR. JUSTICE GRAHAM.

Per GRAHAM, J.—On the 19th October, last, the learned Chief Justice granted to Petitioner a Summons returnable the next day to extend the time for the trial of this Petition for a further period of two months. The next day he made an order. The Respondent relying upon the short notice did not appear to oppose the application.

On the 22nd the Chief Justice granted the Respondent a summons returnable before himself to set aside this Order. On the return day I understand he adjourned the application to come on before the Judges who were expected to try the petition. The parties have brought the matter before me in consequence of this adjournment.

Order 54, Rule 4, provides that a summons "shall be served two clear days before the return thereof, unless in any case it shall be otherwise ordered." I would expect to find on the face of the order an express provision for short service, but as this order in its very terms being returnable the next day contemplates *ex necessitate* a service shorter than two clear days before the hearing, I must presume that the learned Chief Justice in affixing his initials to it directed short notice. What took place when the summons and order were granted is unfortunately disputed, the Respondent alleging that they were granted by the Chief Justice at the applicant's risk. It is therefore very difficult for me to deal with the matter, particularly when it comes to setting aside an order of another Judge. The affidavits produced by petitioner, however, show that the Chief Justice had the matter called to his attention when he granted the Summons, and was told that the notice was short. I think I must assume that he intended to shorten the period of service, or he would not have allowed the Summons to go returnable next day.

The application will be dismissed. Costs reserved. On the hearing there was an application made to me for an extension of the time for appealing from the Order of the Chief Justice. I think this ought to be granted.

Medical Department.

BY the time the present number of the GAZETTE comes forth nearly one-third of our session will be a thing of the past. Does it not behove us then to take a look backward and see where we stand and what we have been doing?

So far our work has been almost entirely voluntary as the incentive of coming professional exams. has scarcely yet made itself felt. To the man, however, who is devoted, heart and soul, to his work, no such incentive is needed. When he looks around and realizes that in a few short years, mayhap, a few short months he will go out single-handed to meet and grapple with those enemies of the human race—disease and death—he is urged on by a sense of such a responsibility to avail himself of every opportunity for acquiring knowledge which may be of service to him in alleviating the sufferings of mankind. To such a man the exams. are not the end in view but the means to that end. For him a retrospective view is both pleasing and profitable. As he sees how, by steady and faithful effort, obstacle after obstacle has been overcome, and how points once dim and tangled have gradually cleared up, he is encouraged to press on with renewed energy. On the other hand for those who are inclined to take things easy, and have a good time generally, a glance backward may awaken them to a sense of opportunities wasted and time ill-spent which may and probably will not only lead to the formation of good resolutions, but also give an impetus toward their performance.

Besides the advisability of each one making a personal review of things done or left undone, it will not be amiss to see what we, as a class, have been about. Although the time since resuming our work has not been long, still, several matters of interest have arisen and been dealt with as we thought best. Owing to the closure of the College building during thanksgiving vacation the students were unable to see the papers placed in the reading-room at their expense, and a notice of considerable

importance to us was not seen till too late. Concerning the matter, a petition was drawn up and sent to the Faculty. In reply, we were informed that the reading-room will be open from 9 A.M. to 10 P.M. every day during the remainder of the session, Saturdays and Sundays excepted, while on Saturdays it will be open from 9 A.M. to 1 P.M. About the same time a resolution passed by the Medical Society concerning the memorable event of November 13th, 1891, was submitted to the tender mercies of the Faculty. It is unnecessary here to enter into the details of the affair as they are quite well known, and the climax has been already immortalized in our last issue by a parody entitled "An Episode in College Life." Here too, a favourable answer was returned and Skelley will get his TURKEY. Still another petition remains to be mentioned, viz., that sent in by the final students in reference to one of the classes. On this point the corporation did not see their way clear to comply with our request—a fact which we very much regret. Feeling as we do in the matter, and knowing only too well the disadvantages we, collectively and individually, are labouring under, we still hope that something may occur whereby our petition may receive a more favourable consideration. In the previous number of the GAZETTE we remarked that whatever tends to advance the interests of a College is beneficial for its students. We still think so, but also believe that the statement holds good when reversed, and consequently consider that compliance with our request would be beneficial to all concerned.

Ere our voice is again heard through the columns of the GAZETTE, another year with its bright spots and seasons of gloom, its pleasures and disappointments, will have passed away and in its stead a new year have dawned with its usual quota of good wishes and good resolutions. In the meantime that much appreciated season—the Christmas vacation of '91-'92—with all its pleasant associations of home, friends and merry Christmas greetings will have glided almost imperceptibly by, and we once more will be delving into the depths of medical lore. Now, as we say good-bye for a short time, we wish you one and all—members of the Faculty, Hospital Staff and Students—a "Merry Christmas" and a very "Happy New Year."

ANTISEPTIC SURGERY.

ABSTRACT OF LECTURE BY DR. FARRELL.

In dealing with the subject of antiseptic surgery it is necessary, in the first place, to know what is meant by sepsis or a septic condition. By sepsis we mean a poisoned condition of the system accompanied by an essential fever known as septic disease or septic intoxication. Some of the diseases occurring in this condition are septicaemia, pyaemia, erysipelas, and hospital gangrene. They are caused by a poison developed in an open wound by a process of fermentation. A putrid wound is likely to produce a septic condition. Putrefaction was, until the germ theory was introduced, said to be due to a ferment, the nature of which was unknown. The germ theory revealed this ferment. It is the microscopic organism found in septic matter. This putrefaction or fermentation takes place in every exposed wound unless the surgeon takes pains to prevent it. It requires the presence always of warmth and moisture. The animal fluids of the body about a wound give all the favorable circumstances for starting fermentation. To an open wound, coated with blood, fibrin and serum, certain organisms, two of which are bacteria and micrococci, attach themselves and set up fermentation, just as the yeast plant sets up fermentation in the brewers malt. This, in a wound, is the beginning of suppuration and when suppuration occurs there is always a danger of the poison getting into the system. The bacteria grow and reproduce themselves and, in the course of their reproduction, they produce a poison known as sepsin or ptomaines. This is absorbed by the system and causes the complications which follow suppuration. Sometimes more than the poison produced by bacteria is absorbed. The bacteria themselves may be taken into the blood-vessels to some extent and add to the trouble.

Various kinds of fever follow the absorption of septic matter, each with its own peculiarity. The reason of this is not quite clear but certain kinds of germs produce certain fevers and any kind will produce at least a mild fever. A great deal depends on the number of bacteria developed and the resisting power of the patient. Sepsin is a poison just as arsenic and mercury are poisons. If a small dose of arsenic be taken only a mild effect will be produced. If a large dose be taken a more decided effect will follow. In the same way a small dose of sepsin produces a slight fever; a large dose a more decided effect.

Now, as to the healing process in a wound, the simplest and best form is, and always was, immediate union or union by first intention. They are practically the same although some authors make a distinction. Union by first intention means the bringing together of the surfaces of a wound as accurately as possible (not

drawing them too tightly) and the healing of the two sides together without any inflammation, suppuration or complication of any kind. This always or practically always takes place in a subcutaneous wound. In this kind of a wound there is no channel for entrance of septic matter. Take a tear in a muscle due to fracture of a bone for instance. A process of repair takes place immediately. This is the highest evidence of a nutritive process. It is a vital, force like growth, but is a higher evidence of a nutritive process. In it the blood vessels of the part immediately set about pouring out certain materials of the blood capable of being organized into new tissue, the effused blood being at the same time absorbed. It acts as nature's glue. It consists of the cellular material of the blood and is developed into fibre, &c., till you get new tissue. These changes constitute perfect healing and this is the healing the surgeon tries to get in all wounds. Besides this healing by first intention other forms were taught formerly, viz., by suppuration and granulation. It was thought that suppuration was necessary in order to get granulation. It is now known that this is not only unnecessary but very injurious.

To get first intention in a wound you must lock out or destroy bacteria. This is done by antiseptic surgery. When thoroughly carried out we speak of a wound as being aseptic. To destroy bacteria we make use of certain means that are preservative of animal tissue. One of the simplest means is seen in the drying of meat. The air is dry and absorbs moisture. Having no moisture germs cannot develop. The application of extreme cold or heat answers the same purpose. Frozen meat can be kept a long time without putrifying. Canned goods are simply boiled and put in air tight cans immediately.

As to the carrying out of the antiseptic method of dealing with wounds, we speak first of irrigation or the washing away of germs. Under this head comes perfect ordinary cleanliness—a plentiful supply of soap and water. It is one of the best antiseptics and the foundation of them all. It means cleanliness of the patient and all his surroundings—surgeon, assistants, nurses, bed, instruments, air &c. For irrigating a wound you can use freely hot water. Boiled water is aseptic. A good washing will carry out the first principle of antiseptic surgery, viz., the washing away of micro-organisms. The second principle is the destruction of such germs as cannot be removed by the process of irrigation or simple washing. This is done by the use of certain chemicals, best of which are carbolic acid and mercuric chloride. Another principle is free drainage. If the sides of a wound are brought together perfectly no drainage is necessary but, in many cases, this is impossible. Some part of the wound will gape and form a pouch in which will accumulate any blood or serum that may exude. If this does not have free exit it will cause trouble. A drainage tube put in the most dependent part of a wound will overcome this difficulty. A fourth principle is rest to the wounded part. Apart from a sepsis no factor does so much good. Nothing gives a patient more comfort and, generally, what is comfortable for a patient is beneficial. To ensure rest you must have the patient in bed. To carry the principle further you can resort to splints, bandages, plasters or anything that will keep the wounded part perfectly quiet and comfortable.

CHANGES AND COMMENTS.

SINCE the close of last session the usefulness of the Halifax Medical College has, without doubt, been greatly extended owing to changes made, improvements introduced and the addition of lecturers on important subjects hitherto neglected. "The powers that be" have evidently had the best interests of both college and students at heart during the long summer months. That their efforts are appreciated is shown by the zeal with which the senior men resume their work and by the large Freshman class at present in attendance.

Foremost among the changes made, is the addition to our Faculty of Dr. Cunningham as adjunct professor of Surgery. The special departments to which he will devote his attention are Dermatology and Orthopaedia. We have long felt the need of special instruction in these subjects, and most heartily welcome Dr. Cunningham as our lecturer. Judging from the few lectures already delivered, he will be a favourite with the boys.

In the chair of Gynecology, too, a change has been made. Our popular lecturer on Obstetrics, Dr. Curry, now has charge of that department, while our late honoured professor, Dr. Slayter, has retired from the lecture room as Emeritus Professor of Obstetrics and Gynecology. That the chair will be ably represented in the future, all who have attended Dr. Curry's lectures of previous sessions can testify.

In Clinical Surgery, Drs. Farrell and Black have arranged matters very happily. Both will attend the hospital practice during their united terms of service, each taking charge of certain wards. Consequently more time will be at their disposal than when the work of the whole surgical department devolved on one person. This division of labor increases the clinical advantages in no small degree. Moreover, our clinical instructors in Surgery are also our lecturers. This we consider very fortunate as often subjects lectured upon in college can next day be illustrated at the bed side. The advantages of such an arrangement are so patent that we can only regret the absence of a similar one in medicine, exclusive of nervous diseases. In our opinion no more desirable change could have been effected than the appointments of Drs. Campbell and Chisholm as associate professors of Practice as well as of Clinical Medicine.

For the first time in the history of the college has a regular lecturer been appointed on Diseases of Children. This subject, which will be treated by Dr. Jones, is one of the most important in the curriculum and well deserving of longer time than is usually spent in its consideration. During the past session Dr. Jones was demonstrator of Histology. The work in that department was then conducted under decidedly unfavourable circumstances, due to the want of proper apparatus. This want, though still existing, has been, to some extent at least, supplied by the addition to the Histological appliances of two microscopes, some other instruments and a number of specimens. Dr. G. M. Campbell will conduct the class in Histology during the present session.

Two other lecturers have also been added to our number, viz., Dr. Finn and A. H. McKay, B. A. The former will devote his time to Pathology, while the latter is to deliver a series of lectures on Bacteriology.

While welcoming Mr. McKay as one of our lecturers, we also cordially congratulate him on his appointment as Superintendent of Education for Nova Scotia. Although regretting the resignation of Dr. Allison, we feel assured that again we have "the right man in the right place."

The appointment of Drs. Anderson and Campbell as assistant demonstrators in Practical Anatomy should give the boys a better chance of tiding over the difficulties which so often beset their path. Moreover we understand that Dr. Jones intends giving a number of demonstrations independent of the regular class work. Such a course should be decidedly beneficial. Then too, the dissecting room being now open four hours a day instead of two, as in previous years, must not be forgotten. By this arrangement those so desiring may avail themselves of daylight and, what is more important still, can have the whole evening for reading.

In conclusion we very much regret the loss of Dr. Ross, late House Surgeon of the V. G. Hospital, as class instructor in Clinical Surgery but at the same time extend a hearty welcome to his successor Dr. Ternan.

MORE ABOUT BONES.

In a recent issue of the GAZETTE, an article appeared relative to the matter of bones. This called forth an explanation of the existing regulations in reference to getting out specimens for osteological study and if these regulations were carried out the matter would rest upon a very satisfactory basis. While theoretically students may obtain any bone when the dissecting room is open, yet practically this is not the case. Experience has proved to many of us that getting a desired bone depends not so much upon the fact of the bone room being open as upon the frame of mind in which the *skeleton* of the dissecting room may happen to be.

In the case of the first year men it is especially important that every bone should be minutely examined and studied, but when we ask for such things as the separate bones of the carpus and tarsus Pete's dulcet tones announce the fact "Ye can't git them, 'cause ye have taken an astragaler away;" and a like answer is returned when a request is made for the bones of the skull.

A few evenings ago, after several vain requests for a tibia, a student was compelled to ask it of one of the Faculty who happened to be in the room.

If the important official who has charge of the bone room were less anxious to air his extensive anatomical knowledge before first year men and a little more ready to accede to the reasonable and gentlemanly requests for bones, matters would be more satisfactory to us all.

FIRST YEAR.

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