

Dalhousie Gazette



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1927 Holds Much For Dalhousie!

Student Organizations Are Planning A Whirlwind Finish For 1926-27

Sodales Will Conduct Weekly Debates

(By G. V. V. N.)

The last term of 1926 was the most successful in the memory of any student now at Dalhousie—successful not only from the standpoint of student activities, but also from the standpoint of that sometimes secondary thing, study. It has been a term of innovations and of strengthening the already proven advances. We have seen the formation of the now famous "Committee of Nine" who have absolute power in everything affecting the student body; and if, perhaps, its work is not yet patent to some of us, it is nevertheless the greatest single advance since the formation of the Students' Council itself. We have seen conducted the first long distance debate in Canada, between Alberta and Dalhousie. The first Theatre Night in years has been held to the enjoyment, if not contentment, of everybody. A new body, the Anglican Students' Society has been formed. We have seen the first science exhibition in the city, planned and arranged by Dalhousie professors, aided by Dalhousie students. For the first time in memory the Library has been kept open in the evenings.

All Societies Boom

The old established customs and societies have continued with far greater enthusiasm. For the first time since the war, students have begun to realize that the primary object of their being at college at all is work; the secondary object—play. The freshmen have shown a decrease of over fifteen per cent in the number of failures and the rest of the college almost as great an improvement. A spirit of ambition and enterprise

(Continued on Page 3)

Consider N. U. S.

A student conference at McGill during the holidays considered the formation of a National Union of Students. The conference drew up a constitution to send to the various student councils. There will be no union unless at least ten colleges enter it. The following colleges were represented: British Columbia, Alberta, Saskatchewan, Western, Ontario Agricultural, McMaster, Toronto, Queen's, Montreal, Bishop's College, Lennoxville, Acadia and McGill.

Dalhousie Sorrows

With great sorrow we note the passing of three persons over the holiday who are connected with the university. The Gazette staff and students sympathize deeply with Mr. Kenneth M. Grant, Mr. W. G. Moran and the family of Mr. W. E. Hebb.

Jock Crashes Into Dramatic Fame

Students at Dalhousie will delight in the news that the one and only Jock, professionally known to the world as Dr. John Cameron, Professor of Anatomy, will soon be seen on the Majestic stage. The play is the original production of "The Token" by Mrs. Charles Archibald of Halifax, and Dr. Cameron is seen to advantage in the comic role of a not too well educated Hebridean settler in Cape Breton in the early days. While the genial Doctor stoutly maintains that this is his first dramatic effort, it is understood that even in the early rehearsals that have been held, his interpretation of his part brings out the comic situations so strikingly that the rest of the cast are fairly convulsed with laughter. A Scottish accent forms an important part of the character portrayed, and if Jock can't provide that, who under the sun can? His early racial training, moreover, should make the portrayal of a true Hebridean a matter of ease. The scene of the play finds the thrifty one shortly after the completion of his first trip to "the Boston States", where his first acquaintance with a steam engine has evoked awe and reverence, along with the firm conviction that the evil powers have something to do with it, somehow, somewhere. Shades of the immortal travels of James D. Gillis! It wouldn't be fair to say too much about the plot of a play before its first presentation, but it's a sure thing that every Dal student will be there with bells on when the curtain rises.

DECISION NEXT WEEK

The last article in the Alberta-Dalhousie debate appears this week. Who do you think will win? The decision will appear next week.

Dalhousian Wins Scholarship

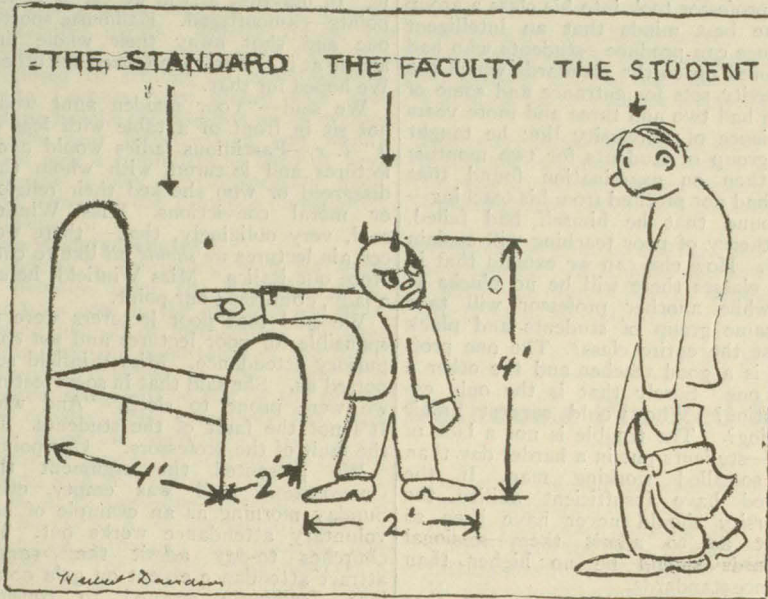
Mr. Frederick Ronald Hayes, is this year winner of the I. O. D. E. Scholarship in Science. Announcement of this was made shortly after the last issue of the Gazette and the Gazette offers its hearty though somewhat belated congratulations. Our wish is that Mr. Hayes may have every success in the work to which this scholarship leads.

Graduating last year in Science, Ronald Hayes finished an undergraduate course notable for its influence in University affairs. The chief event in his Dalhousie career was last year's revival of the Glee Club under his leadership. He has also served on the Gazette staff and this year is Freshman Representative on the Students' Council.

Mr. Hayes has always been interested in Zoology and has spent the last three summers in research work, last December presenting to the Nova Scotia Institute a paper on the development of Gastropod eggs. This year he is assisting Professor Bean in the Histology Lab., and at the same time studying towards his Master's Degree. He plans to continue his studies in the University of Liverpool.



The Modern Procrustes



Employees' Association Makes New Year's A Big Day At Dalhousie

Fry and Bell Tie For First Place

NEW year's was a big day at Dalhousie. While the students, scattered about the province, were celebrating 1927 in their homes, a group of older Dalhousians kept the college fires burning. There was the dinner and there was the dance—the dinner was a success and the dance was a success. Everybody knew they would be a success—and for once everybody was justified in saying, 'I told you so'.

They knew that the New Year celebrations would be a success because the club of the Dalhousie employees was putting them on. That was good reason. And they had done it before. The employees' organization is a Dalhousie institution of which many students are unaware. It is a unique organization and we doubt if any other university can boast a comparable one.

The dinner took place at 6.30 in the Murray Homestead. Owing to unforeseen circumstances (Continued on Page 4)

Will Debate Mt. A.

The Dalhousie Girl Debaters will meet the Mount Allison team in debate sometime within the next few months. The exact date has not yet been agreed upon. The subject which was submitted by Mount Allison is a good one, and should be of interest to all, namely:

"Resolved that the influence of the United States has been, on the whole, beneficial to Canada."

Dalhousie will uphold the Affirmative side of the question. For the last three years the debates have been held at the other colleges of the league; this year it will be at Dalhousie. The trial debates will be held as soon as suitable arrangements can be made.

What's Doing

- Jan. 15—First Senior Men's Basketball 8.30 at the Y
- Jan. 17—Trial debates Glee Club
- Jan. 18—Trial debates
- Jan. 21—Dal vs King's (hockey)
- Jan. 27—Mt.A. vs Dal (hockey Halifax)
- Jan. 31—Glee Club (Engineers)

Note—All live societies make a point of getting their meetings on this list.

Big Improvement In Med Library

Medical students on arriving back from the Christmas vacation were both surprised and pleased at the many alterations which have been done to the library. The partition between the former office and the reading room has been removed thus making the library much larger and at the same time giving better ventilation and light. Smaller tables which will accommodate two students with a light for each table will be installed. Other improvements such as more comfortable chairs, and linoleum for the floor are to follow. Miss MacNutt our very obliging librarian has a semi-private office near the entrance.

A new reading room has been fitted up for the Faculty and here the bound Medical Journals will be filed. Then there is another new room, especially for the Dental Journals. Finally the duplicate room has been provided with better stocks. All these improvements are due to the generosity of the Board of Governors of our College.

Persia has no old maids—probably accounting for all the Persian cats seen around here.

The Other Side of the Question

The Gazette has been very busy this year telling the university what is wrong with it. We, the students, have been criticizing everything and everybody but ourselves. Of course this is as it should be, because our opinions cannot fail to be as interesting to the world at large as they are to us. At the same time, we realize that there are two sides to every question, and it has slowly begun to dawn upon us that even professors may have opinions. And, since college is to help teach one half the world what the other half thinks, it might be good practice to begin at home.

But if professors have opinions of their own they are singularly inarticulate. Can it be that they agree with us? That they actually appreciate the geniuses entrusted to their care? If so, it would seem that we have wasted much print these last few weeks! We have committed the unpardonable sin of telling them what they already know!

Possibly they are merely at a loss

Students Facing Problems of Times

Montreal Conference Wide Awake

(By P. L. H. Muschamp)

THERE can be no doubt in the minds of those who attended the Second National Conference of Canadian Students recently held under the auspices of the Student Christian Movement at Macdonald College, that the students of Canada are wide awake as to the problems confronting our age, and they certainly appear to be determined to work out their own solutions to even the most complex situations which our present economic systems impose on international society.

The conference was held at St. Anne de Bellevue, on the Island of Montreal, from December 27th to January 3rd. About 250 delegates, representing all the principal universities of Canada, were given free accommodation in the comfortable buildings of Macdonald College. The delegates from Dalhousie were Helen Wickwire, Jean Moriarity Hutchinson, Miss Lowe, Harriet Matheson, Marie Eriksen, Ted Cummings, Hamilton Baird, Tom Humphrey, Art Hockin, Larry MacKenzie and myself.

There were two lectures every day—the speakers coming from all parts of Canada, from the United States, from China, India and other parts of the world—and the subject of these lectures was reviewed in general discussions held every afternoon from the floor, as well as in the study groups meeting separately for an hour every morning.

The hours spent in study groups were probably the most instructive. So far as possible every university was represented in each of the ten groups. The discussion was absolutely informal, so that every member of the group felt himself free to offer his views for open criticism and amendment.

In such a group, led by Larry McKenzie, the fact was revealed to me that the students from every part of Canada held fundamentally the same views in religious, governmental and educational matters. 'Religiously' we were all tired of the sham and hypocrisy so often bound up with the church and its activities; 'governmentally' we all agreed

(Continued on page 4)

Verse Haters

We invite those readers who never partake of our verse to sample this week's offering; which is bad enough to be interesting.

for a means of expression. In that case we should advocate a weekly paper, edited and contributed to entirely by the faculty. Picture the avidity with which the student would scan such articles as "Down with the Student," "The Evils of Gum Chewing," "An Outburst on the Swelled Head," "Mental Diseases of the Student," or a melancholy ode on "The Pains of Plucking." Its success would be assured both as a literary and a humorous paper!

But, though the salary of the professor be large beyond the dreams of avarice, and money need never prove the stumbling-block to his desires, his time is probably too much occupied to permit of such an arduous undertaking. Realizing these difficulties, yet earnestly desiring to publish the professor's opinion of the student, in order that "the people may know," The Gazette requests contributions from members of the faculty on the all-important subject—"What I Think of the Student, and Why." —F. W.

Tupper Invites You to the Y Saturday Night

The Dalhousie Gazette

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Teaching

EXAMS are still a common topic. Last week they were the only topic; probably students used no word so much as **pluck**. 'Happy New Year' and 'How did you make out?' were the greetings—the first sometimes to avoid the latter. Many students—many good students—have received plucks; many students who had hoped to distinguish themselves have obtained passes only. Plucks mean disappointment—up here at Dalhousie and in hundreds of Dalhousie homes. On the whole it is a sad time of the year; there is about the college a tragic note. It makes you think.

Plucks make you think. Are they necessary? Could anything avoid these blots on our college life? This is a problem, students, to which we should give some thought. Whose fault is it? That is the first question. The professors have no doubt as to the answer; practically every professor will say it is the fault of the student. They must realize of course that students do not always agree with them. Is there any reason in the student opinion? Is the professor ever to blame? Might the professor by the exercise of a little more diligence, a little more care, have helped the student to a better understanding of his work?

The fault is partly the student's and partly the professor's. There are two differences to note between the student and the professor. The student is aware of his fault; the professor, it seems, is not. The second distinction is that the student bears the consequence of his own fault and the consequence of the professor's fault; the professor goes scot free. There is every reason for the student to suffer for his own mistakes—and no reason since he alone bears the consequence why he should not make mistakes; there is no reason why he should suffer for the mistakes of others.

We will deal with the fault of the professor. You shall know a man by his works—a teacher by his pupils. Let us look at the pupils of the Dalhousie teachers—let us accept their judgment of those pupils. They have plucked their students right and left—they have plucked sometimes fifty and sixty percent of their classes. They did not say to them merely; 'You did not do particularly well'; they said to them, 'You have done badly, you do not deserve even a pass'. Here is what they did:

each professor took into his class a group of the best minds that an intelligent province can produce—students who had measured up to the standards which the university sets for entrance and some of whom had two and three and more years experience of university life; he taught that group of students for two months; and then on examination found that they had not profited from his teaching—he found that he himself had failed. The theory of poor teaching will explain much. How else can we explain that in some classes there will be no plucks at all, while another professor will take the same group of students and pluck almost the entire class? The one professor is a good teacher and the other a poor one. Surely that is the only explanation? Who would suggest unfair marking? The trouble is not a lack of work—students put in a harder day than the so-called working man. If the plucked have insufficient ability the university should never have been so unjust as to admit them—sessional standards should be no higher than entrance standards.

There can be little doubt but that something is wrong on the professor's side. What is it? There is probably nowhere a finer group of men than the teaching staff of Dalhousie. They mingle fairly freely with the students, welcome them to their homes or rooms, and are always ready to help—many of them are former students. That is not the point. The fact is that most of them are not teachers. The reason is obvious. University professors as a general rule do not become professors because they are interested in teaching; they do so because they are interested in a particular subject and find university teaching one of the few occupations which will enable them to pursue their study. That is why there are better teachers in the professional faculties than in the academic faculties; professional men, to pursue their study, do not need a university job—as a consequence the professors in the professional faculties are men who want to teach.

We wish to make it clear in presenting this criticism that we are not knocking Dalhousie—other universities may be worse. That they are is no excuse for Dalhousie—she need listen to the dictates of none. We are boosting Dalhousie—we want her to take the lead.

A Chance For 26-27

CAN we criticize the constitution of the Council of the Students without casting any reflection on the students who happen to be its present members?

The Council constitution is the constitution of the council itself and of all the more important student activities. Therefore we do not propose to make a thorough study; we are going to make just a few remarks and a few suggestions—only to point out that the Council constitution needs consideration.

The Council's most important function, it seems, is financing. At the beginning of the college year each society (except D. A. A. C., with whom it is each team manager) and the Gazette submit to the Council a budget. The Finance Committee, including the President and Secretary-treasurer, considers these budgets and adjusts them so that the total expenditure will be within the amount at the Council's disposal. The Finance Committee reports to the Council which automatically adopts the report. That is, five students decide annually the relative importance of hockey and dramatics. The significance of this proceeding is difficult to understand. Some activities spend money before it takes place; on the other hand neither afterward nor before can any society (it is different with the Gazette) make an expenditure without an order in writing from the Sec.-treas. of the Council. This applies to the purchase of even a single hockey stick. No activity can make an expenditure except in accordance with the budget it submitted. Thus, if the football manager put in an estimate for lemons, he would be unjustified in spending it on oranges. If there is a large expenditure to be made the Council, instead of the Sec.-treas., must generally give the permission. A team manager

is thus in the humiliating position of having to go to the Council for permission to spend money which the Council has already voted for that purpose. The receipts of every activity (including the Gazette) go directly to the Council. It makes no difference to a particular activity, except in a general way, whether it has large receipts or not. If the Glee Club—which means its officers—plans a play and works hard and makes a couple of hundred dollars, that does not benefit it: the money goes to the Council and may enable Sodales to stage an extra debate or the basketball team to have an extra trip. For the same reason there is no incentive to be economical.

This unique arrangement has an unhealthy effect on student activities. It destroys the interest of executives in the financial success of their activities, and by binding their hands, kills initiative and enterprise. The financing of a society becomes a game of grab—see how much you can get from the Council, that is it; budgets submitted this year totalled almost twice the amount at the Council's disposal. Control of the purse-strings is important—and closely bound up with the success of any activity requiring money. We find societies succeeding in spite of the Council; the success of the Glee Club and Sodales is largely due to the fact that those societies can carry on the more important part of their programs with little or no money. The Council is a holding company lacking an interest in the success of its constituents; the persons who are most interested have no control.

The D. A. A. C. perhaps best shows the evils of the present constitution. A look through the old minute book of that society will show that it was once

Final Speech From Alberta

I now take my pen in hand. Murphy! The gist of his rebuttal is this—"Six of your arguments are false, four are illogical, the first article was a humorous subterfuge and WE have quoted facts". He wrote a thousand words around that statement and did not amplify it. Like the old-style politician he hopes to create an impression by direct statements. In no statement in the rebuttal where he attempted refutation did he use any proof, beyond a simple denial. He made a statement, called high heaven witness that it was a fact and trusted that it would pass the judges as such. That is my reply to the last article. We ask whoever judges this debate to be careful to keep our objection in mind. We will not use that method.

Our first article was not a "humorous subterfuge." It was an attempt to confuse Dalhousie. There was chaff in it in abundance. There was also grain. The chaff hid the grain, as was intended. In a debate, if the Negative does not consider any point that the Affirmative brings up it must concede it. In our first article we threw in five points—camouflaged. Dalhousie spotted one and shot away their whole first article at it. They overlooked the others. We hoped for that.

We said—"Your maiden aunt would not sit in front of a table with legs on it" i. e.—Fastidious ladies would avoid lectures and lecturers with whom they disagreed or who shocked their religious or moral convictions. Miss Winfield said, very obligingly, that—"there were certain lectures we should all like to cut." Note our italics. Miss Winfield, herself a lady, confirmed our point.

We said that poor lecturers were responsible for poor lectures and not compulsory attendance. Miss Winfield supported us. She said that in some lectures we were prone to sleep. "And why? It's not the fault of the students. It's the fault of the professors." Our point.

We presented the argument that Convocation Hall was empty every Sunday morning as an example of how voluntary attendance works out. The churches to-day admit they cannot attract attendance except on gala occasions. Dalhousie scorned to consider such "humorous subterfuge". They, therefore, conceded the point.

We said that university students were boys. Mr. Murphy said they were men. Neither statement is effective because neither of us can define "man" and "boy". Any definition would be a generalization at best. We can't do it by the stipulation of a certain age because chronological age and mental age are two different things. We can tackle it another way. Almost all men are self-supporting and almost all boys are not. Our generalization is—a man is self-supporting and a boy is not. Are the majority of university students self-supporting? Mr. Murphy helps us out—"About 33% of students work their way through college". We'll accept that. Therefore 67% do not. Allowing plenty of latitude for error in our generalization we are conservative in saying that at least 50% of our students are more aptly classed as boys than as men. And is this not better logic than Mr. Murphy's simple statement—"The student is a man."

We asked Dalhousie how working in groups could be managed efficiently with

an influence for varied and wholesome sport. Today it might almost as well not exist except for the annual election of team managers, any one of whom has more influence than the President. The Sec.-treas. is powerless and in practice, signs cheques in blank for the Sec.-treas. of the Council—leaving the team managers to deal with the Council. Last year we found the President writing as follows: "At one time this body was extremely active but at the present time owing to the fact that it has neither funds or revenue with which to operate it is forced to become a passive body." To perfect his argument, to show just how sick and disunited D. A. A. C. was, we find three of his team managers and the Sec.-treas. writing to contradict statements made elsewhere in the President's letter. D. A. A. C. does not even decide the relative importance of its various activities—the team managers independently submit their estimates to the Council. D. A. A. C. is futile—through no fault of its own.

There is no purpose in the present financing scheme. The placing of the functions of the several secretary-treasurers in the hands of the Sec.-treas. of the Council is perhaps based on the theory that one man is more apt to be reliable than a dozen. The result is—in addition to the general evils we have already pointed out—that if the Sec.-treas. is either weak or irresponsible student activities as a whole suffer.

Some such scheme as follows would be wiser. Each society (D. A. A. C. acting as a unit) at the first of the year should put in a request for money, itemizing if it so desires. The Council as a whole should consider the importance to the entire student body of each activity and apportion its funds accordingly. The proportions should vary little from year to year. Each society should have the benefit of any monies which it earns. Any balance at the end of the year should be carried over to the following year and so with any deficit. Then student executives would have a fair opportunity to make their societies successful.

voluntary attendance. Group working is indispensable in the Medical, Applied Science and Agricultural faculties. They have not even referred to it in their three articles. They conceded the point.

That is a summary of our first contribution. Mr. Murphy's first speech has been answered. Now for Miss Winfield!

She's in hard luck indeed! She wants to become broadminded, but she must attend lectures instead. 'Tis sad that the professor won't let her through on breath of mind.

The Math. professor insists that you know the calculus, the Poly. Ec. professor insists that you know Gresham's Law, the Medical professor insists that you know the Orbiculus Ciliaris. Now she says that the Orbiculus Ciliaris doesn't interest her and therefore she shouldn't attend the lectures to learn about it. Well, uninteresting lectures often contain facts that the student should know, that it is his business to know. The student is here to train himself to carry on the great work of the world when he graduates. Breadth of mind acquired by missing uninteresting lectures on the Orbiculus Ciliaris will not build steel bridges nor discover the cure for cancer, nor teach the next generation the profound beauties of Shakespeare. No! But organized and systematic study will. It is the fund of definite knowledge that a graduate possesses that will enable him to make a living and not breadth of mind.

And what is breadth of mind? It is anything you like to say it is. Everybody has it except our enemies and yours.

Yes we do base our case on the value of lectures. Miss Winfield says "We wouldn't cut all of the lectures all of the time". Those she would attend, however, she must consider valuable. And what about the others—the ones that don't interest her—the Orbiculus Ciliaris ones? Is she, or any student, a better judge of a lecture than a professor who is an expert in his field? Hardly. *The professor is a man.* (Note this, Mr. Murphy).

Miss Freda says that under a voluntary system "We would cut the lectures of Prof. B and read them instead." Think of a medical student reading up on Anatomy, or an engineering student reading up on Mathematics, or an Arts Student reading up on Modern Languages! How many students would do it? How many could do it? Very few.

Miss Winfield *thinks* she prefers examinations. That establishes no argument.

What Professors A, B and C and "average student" E, F and G said to her on opportune occasions is not evidence in a court or in a debate.

Cases of illness among students cannot be used as evidence. We are arguing about a normal student body. A sick student is entitled to special consideration in regard to attendance.

Space does not permit a summing up of Miss Horricks' points. Mr. Murphy said she had ten. Isn't he the hard-working Irish lad? He does all the work on his own debate and then does a chore for the judges besides. We imagine we can hear him say "That's false!" Well, everything may be false, Mr. Murphy—everything. Everything but this—

You've got to know the Orbiculus Ciliaris.

THE LIFE OF A LITTLE COLLEGE

A book of interest to Dalhousians is *Cobblestones*. Zillah MacDonald, one time librarian, is the author of this clever story of an old-fashioned Christmas for sale.

Scholarships at Harvard for Dalhousie lawyers become a common occurrence. Roy MacNutt is the latest to boost the stock of the old Law School. Congratulations.

Engineers are showing initiative in putting on a Glee Club show.

Pete Judge is the new hockey manager. He succeeds Joe McManus who felt that he had not sufficient time for the work.

Students learn with regret that Doc Smith is out of basketball. Here's wishing him a speedy recovery.

The Cambridge debaters say that the St. F. X. debaters are the best debaters they met on their tour.

It is gratifying to note that two of Professor Wilson's Christmas presents have been accounted for. So far he has sported two new neckties.

We hope that Gwennie Fraser considers that an evening's entertainment at the Casino is worth a bawling out.

Miss Blanche Collins, Class '26, who has been teaching during the past term in Yarmouth County, is spending a few days in Halifax, visiting friends at Shirreff Hall.

George E. Ross (Law '23) and his wife (formerly Olive Atlee, Arts '23) spent the holiday season in Halifax.

Friends of Jack Burchell will be glad to learn that he is recovering rapidly from his recent operation and will be able to resume his classes within a few days.

Bridge is a very popular game at Shirreff Hall now; whether it is an attempt to drown the sorrows of the Christmas examinations, or whether it is a feeling that it is too early yet to work, we do not know.

It is in the air, that a Dalhousie student might be able to buy a Dal "Song Book" in the near future. (Someone remarks "hope he can 'catch the air'"). Indeed it would be a blessing! Soon the Freshettes can sing, "I'm a meek and humble Freshman" to their baby brother at Christmas time, instead of "Suppose I got a pluck". And before long the seniors will be singing "Oh, won't you come up to Dalhousie" to their grandmothers. The Meds might learn their own song and the lawyers might acquire the information that there are verses to "Theres not a flaw, flaw, flaw."

Several old Dalhousians turned up during the holidays, including Edith MacNeill, Harriet Roberts, Flo MacMullen, Isabel Silver, Marion Schon, Blanche Collins, Kaye MacDonald, Kaye Vickery, Gerry Buckley, Brodie Taylor and Larry MacKenzie.

Miss Shrieve, the pleasant little assistant in the Arts Library, has been greatly worried over her mother's illness during the holidays. We are glad to know that Mrs. Shrieve is doing well and we wish her a speedy recovery.

What did the Prof. mean who said?: My confirmed opinion is that the real answer to the question "Why I came to college" is, that the increasing prevalence of automobiles makes it unsafe for children to play on the streets.

We are all glad to welcome Miss Marian Elliott '25 to Shirreff Hall last week. This year Marian is vice-principal of Berwick Academy.

We wonder if the phrase "Groggy at the bell" really originated in the squared ring.

Only fourteen more weeks until the spring exams—buck up students.

It is evident from the influx of Terpsichorean aspirants at Kitty's on Saturday night that the annual Pine Hill dance is not far away.

Something new in fall furs—A co-ed who has not become acquainted with the term "plucked".

The Medical Dance is over for another year. You have to hand it to the Meds for a practical lesson in Anatomy.

Statistics show that there was a large increase in the number of turkeys, geese and chickens plucked during the recent festive season, as compared with that of former years.

Human intelligence reaches its maximum at 16 years. After that there's nothing left to do but to learn how to use it.

Cheap Books

BOOKS come in for a lot of bunk. Here you find people worshipping them and there you find others despising them. In an unguarded moment someone says that the university is a collection of books—which God forbid—and immediately scores of people catch up the cry and give the remark a significance that its author never intended. On the other hand there are other people who have no use for books and who have no hesitation in saying so. One reason that there is so much bunk about books is that there is so much bunk in books.

It is a fact that at college we do have quite a lot to do with books. We may as well know about them what there is to be known. Starting a library is an interesting pursuit. It satisfies our "collection instinct", and is no waste of time besides. Owning a book gives a person a different attitude toward it. Give anyone a book and he will likely read it; make it merely available and the chances are that he will not open it. It takes only two books to make a library; once you have a library it will grow. It is not a bad idea to present Self with a book on occasion.

The trouble is, someone says, books cost money. Here we come to what most people do not seem to know: there are cheap editions of all the so-called best books; for less than it costs you to go to the theatre you can buy a book that your grandchildren will treasure as an heirloom. Why not?

—K.

Aberdeen Again

Have you heard of the Aberdonian who has on the back of his neck a handy wart, which saves him expenditure on collared shirts.

She—"What does 'Kismet' mean?"
He—"Kiss me before tea, dear!"

Milton As A Song Writer of To-day

I HAVE decided, after due investigation in *Hanford*, that Milton would not have been a success as a song-writer of the present day. Tin Pan Alley would have rejected his work gently but firmly. It would have been heard only in cheap medicine shows which had applied for free professional copies.

Radical as these statements may sound they are given in all seriousness. It is my belief that Milton's work lacks certain features which modern audiences demand, and it is to the demands of these audiences that the song-writer must cater.

Milton's poetry lacks humour. This limits his selling capacity; for although only a small percentage of the popular songs are humorous, a great percentage of the humorous songs are popular.

Milton's work lacks a feeling of love for his mother and thus another song market is closed to him. *Mammy* songs and sentimental *Mother* ballads are probably the best sellers in the song world to-day.

Milton's work lacks signs of the homing instinct so prevalent in modern song. "Every schoolboy knows" (as Macaulay has it) that many of our modern song writers burst forth at intervals with earnest pleas to be taken home, home usually being in a southerly direction. In Milton's poetry, however, we find no trace of this discontent with the north. He makes no reference to "Dear old Dixie", "The Mason-Dixon Line" or any of the other outstanding features of the *Going-Home* songs.

Technically, Milton's work misses fire. Many points of its construction mark it as wholly unsuitable for Tin Pan Alley. First of all the nomenclature of Milton's work is not happy as regards its selling power. Imagine trying to persuade a publisher to handle a song called *Il Penseroso*. Picture a fox-trot with the title, *To the Lord General Cromwell On the Proposals of Certain Ministers at the Committee for Propagation of the Gospel* boosted by Feist, Shapiro-Bernstein, or some other firm as a "red-hot number." Can the reader conceive Milton's sonnet,

On His Being Arrived to the Age of Twenty-Three becoming a "sure-fire hit?"

The rhythm used by Milton is also hopeless for present day needs. It is either devoid of syncopation or else it jumps around with an irregular suddenness that would drive a composer mad.

Another characteristic of the modern song which Milton's work lacks is the couplet of catchlines or an occasional *break*, as in *She's a Corn-fed Indiana Girl*:

"She's so bashful; she's so shy;
"She hides every Tuesday
"When the train goes by."

This sort of thing is entirely lacking in Milton's work.

I have neither the time nor the inclination to give examples of all the differences between the style of Milton and that of the modern song-writer, but I should like my reader to compare Milton's sonnet, *To Mr. Lawrence* with my conception of the same thing written by a denizen of Tin Pan Alley. The modern version is as follows:

(Tune—Bye Bye Blackbird)
Lawrence, you're a virtuous lad,
And as the weather's getting bad,
Where shall we go?
Now where shall we sometimes meet,
Protected from the rain and sleet
And the deep snow.
Back to dear old Dixie's clime we'll travel.
At the trip not one of us will cavil.
Where lily and rose are clothed anew,
And the sky is always blue,
Come on, let's go!

It is a far cry from Milton to this type of verse and I feel that Milton would never have been able to bring himself to adopting this style. It is this style however, that the modern audience demands and as it was absolutely foreign to his nature I can predict no future for Milton as a song-writer.

—W. G. A. '29.

Student Organization

(Continued from page 1.)

pervades everything. Our debating team has made the best showing of its history against Cambridge. The football team has preserved and strengthened its traditions of sportsmanship and hard playing, with victories over Acadia, the United Services, and the Island teams. The societies have broadened out their activities and met with greater support from the students. The Glee Club has kept the high standard of last year and has had even larger and more appreciative audiences than before. Sodales has used the English method of debating with marked success. Never before have so many students taken the opportunity of speaking and the quality of their attempts has been steadily improving since the beginning of the term.

But we are not finished yet. The societies are forming new plans.

Glee Club Branches Out

The Glee Club is branching out into new activities. Next week we are to see the first example of student authorship. M. Gautheron is planning to present a French play. The Engineers are entertaining the latter part of the month—the first of what is hoped will be a series of faculty nights. Ronald Hayes, the president of last year's Glee Club, has promised to arrange an entertainment. Delta Gamma have hinted that they will undertake the program on an evening in the near future—(Can you wait?). Even now a committee is hard at work selecting a play for Convocation week, with a tour of the Province immediately following.

Plan Weekly Debates

Sodales is continuing with its series of debates under the English system, but from now on the meetings are to be weekly instead of fortnightly. Without minimizing the importance of the inter-collegiate debates, in the future the greatest stress will be laid on the periodical debates when everybody has, and will have, an opportunity to speak. Trials are soon to be held for the coming debate with St. Francis Xavier.

D. A. A. C. Develops Material

The D. A. A. C. are embarking on a strenuous campaign to unearth new material. The hockey team deserves a great deal of credit for its efforts, handicapped as it is with a scarcity of players. It is entering two leagues: the Western Section of the Intercollegiate League, with Mount Allison and U. N. B.; and a city intercollegiate league with Kings, Tech., and St. Mary's. In basketball Dalhousie has its best team for many years. With all of last year's players except one—the probabilities for winning the City League are exceedingly bright. Practises have already begun.

Everybody is combining to make 1926-27 Dalhousie's biggest year.

McGill won its first hockey contest with Queens.

French players visiting Montreal make a practice of giving students of the McGill French Department half rates.

Biology I

Antonios' Counter Part

The Classroom wrapt in silence lay,
Fear in the student's breast held sway;
A pall of darkness closed around,
And dark despair a refuge found.

The ogre walked around in glee,
His helpless victims dare not flee,
But each surveyed his thumb anew,
And sadly watched it turn to blue.

The boys filed slowly to the desk,
And weakened, weary, 'gainst it pressed.
The girls, though trembling, bravely stayed,
While quietly they watched and prayed.

The boys punched wildly, jabbed and stuck,
'Til each succeeded by good luck.
The girls looked on with glazed eyes
"What fool says 'Earth is Paradise'".

At last remained one boy alone,
There sounded forth a heartfelt groan,
He glanced about, his visage white,
While murmured he, "It must be right!"

Romances tell of gallants brave,
Who of their oozing life blood gave,
But who has heard of one, indeed,
Who made his own thumb freely bleed?

With heavy mien, determined look,
He laid his own slide on a book.
The hero neither winced nor sighed
As blood gushed out on each girl's slide.

And when the girls, protesting cried,
Then cheerfully he laughed and lied
"What is one drop of blood," quoth he,
"One drop, in all eternity?"

—I. M. M.

Dalhousie Plucked Me

Dalhousie plucked me when we met,
Gaily jumping up to crack me:
All the thieves are plucking yet,
Cheerily fixed the cards to stack me.
Little's now for my elation,
Honors cannot reconstruct me:
Though I ran the blasted nation,
Dalhousie plucked me.

One day an American and an Irishman were talking about different concerts in which they had sung. The American said:—"When I first sang in a concert, such a shower of flowers came from the audience that I could have set up a flower shop." "Well, that's nothing," said Pat. "When I first sang at an open-air meeting the crowd presented me with a house." "A house?" said the American. "You must be mad!" "Faith, it's true," said Pat. "But, begorra, a brick at a time."

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I am a cockeral brave and bold
I'm plucked without a feather
But as, my dear, you're plucked as bad
We'll shiver both together
Cock—a—doodle—doo
When I have you
It is a very little thing
The faculty can do.

For after all is said and done
Marks make nor man nor rooster
And they must give me a degree
When I my profs. get used ter
Cock—a—doodle—doo
If you stay true
We'll learn to live in spite of them
And damn well too!

—H. A. D.

George Washington University will entertain ten foreign English speaking students travelling under the auspices of the Confederation Internationale des Etudiants.

Rugby Teams Note

Members of the Senior and Intermediate Rugby Teams who have not already done so are requested to hand in such equipment as sweaters and stockings to Mr. Stirling, Gym. Instructor, as soon as possible.

J. G. GODSOE,
Secy.-Treas., Council.

Built To Win, Without Within

She sat just before me, within the great hall,
And here is my tribute to Dorothy Small:
There are bones without number; I numbered them all:
Ah, where can you equal my Dorothy Small?

No longer the moron, to sit there and think,
I called for more paper, I splattered blue ink.
They have sung of their Helens, and Didos and all:
I sing of the glories of Dorothy Small.

Her ankles were shapely, her figure was neat;
Her hands, how divine, and how charming her feet!
What? Passionate verse? A thing that's not done!
I made a high first in Anatomy One!

Her neck, over shoulders that seemed to be brave,
Was a pale fluted column that rose in the air.
This last of her beauties, and then I have done:
I made a high first in Anatomy One!

Jokes We Have Heard

"This paper that I have set is not at all difficult and anyone who has done the work will find it quite easy."
—A 75% plucking prof.

"Gee! I'll get plucked in that for sure. Why man, I never even open a book!"
—A plucker of the worst kind

"Say Jess, wasn't that the awfulest stew we had for lunch to-day?"
—A Shireff Hall damsel.

"Come on fellows get together, there's enough of us to give a Law Yell. Ready."
—Any three Law students.

"The reason I carry so many books around the campus is to give the proper university professor atmosphere."
—Charlie L.

"No, I'm sorry that book is spoken for, but I can let you have it three weeks from this coming Saturday night."
—A. M. M. per—

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Will It Come To This

IT WAS the night of the students' first dance after the holiday season. The ballroom was beautiful in colored effects and the musicians were droning out a waltz. All was so splendid, so pretty, so artistic. Near the center of the room two young people were lazily dancing and conversing in low tones. The man was tall and dark with that intelligent, collegiate appearance; the girl was prettily dressed in a dainty evening frock, and she too had that look of a well read, cultured, intelligent being.

"How'd ja make out in the Xams, Iserbel?"

"Aw, tearibil, Albert, tearibil! Gotta see Murray-to-morrah."

"Poor deah. S' to bad. How many d'ja get plucked in?"

"Huh?"

"Yahoidme. I sed how many d'ja get plucked in?"

"Only fo-ah. S'awfulainti, Albert?"

"Yeah, kinda tough. Takin' any classes from Benny?"

"Yeah. I hadta taka shotta English so' at I cud speak aw right. S'awful class. A'int Benny the funniest lad! Oh ya oughta hear his jokes, Albert, that man's a perfect scream. Ya gotta taka class from him ta' ppreciate him. How d'ja like Toshie, Albert?"

"Toshie's aw right—he knows his rocks, kid. Gotta go on hikes and bustupa stone."

"Yeah, Assa greatelp aintit?"

"Cut yer kidin'. Spose ya cleaned up in histree, Iserbel!"

"Say bo, I cuda knocked George E. fura rowa Medieval cock-tails. Ya know what he did?"

"Noah, I'll bite."

"Gee! Thawt I hada fust fur suwr and whennah lamped the list I cudn't find me nameatall!"

"S'nuthin', Herbie plucked me an' I handed him enuff Scotch jokesta fillanalmanac."

"Dreadful, Albie, Dreadful! I spose I'll hafta drop me dogon Math."

"Ya what?"

"Math, Albert, Math. Can't ja hear-me?"

"Oh ya Math."

"Suwr me Math. T'aint no use anyway, nevva was much good whennitwas good, Albert. Asswun cons'lation."

"Yeah. I gotta drop Latin. S'awful class. S'bad fur ya ta study 'at stuff. Wattizzie gooda it to ya anyway?"

"College s' gettin' awful dead, Albert since the Xams."

"Suwr is dead, Iserbel. No parties er nuthin'."

"S'awful. Guess I wont stay any longer. Don't knowassa getta nawful kick outta it, anyway. S'all right fur sum—dances en everything, but there's nottanuff ta do alla time. Gonna givit upina coupla weeks en go home."

"Yeah? Sto bad, Iserbel. Suwr missya. Guess I'll getta job and quit myself. No use only takin' two subjects, issit? Nevva liked college much eithuh. Well, hadda good dance; thankya so much, Iserbel."

"Thankya, Albert."

"S'long."

"Good nite, Albert. See ya sumore."

— Kelly '29.

Employees' Association

(Continued from page 1)

tunate weather a large number of the guests were unable to get there. Stan was there—and spoke in his usual happy way. Prof. Theakston was the able chairman. We may congratulate Mrs. Sykes on her part in the entertainment. Mr. Sykes was the principal actor—when he brought in the Dalhousie birthday cake which he had made, even unto the frosting, with his own hands, wonder gave way to applause. The cake was ingenious and good. Each tier in it represented a Dalhousie building, the smaller tiers the younger buildings—there were many tiers. At the end Joe led a Dal yell in a way that a professional yell leader might envy. Finally, Auld Lang Syne.

Old acquaintance was not forgotten, for half an hour later Dalhousie gathered again in the gym. Paul Jones vied with Lancers and the Polka; and foxtrox vied with Paul Jones, Lancers and Polka. There was some doubt as to who was the most graceful man on the floor. One unbiassed onlooker said that there was a tie between Mr. Fry and Prof. Bell, both of the Forrest Building. The gathering broke up at a respectable hour.

Following is a list of committees:

Dinner and supper dance committee: Miss Wilson, Messrs. Sykes and Lester.

Decoration Committee: Messrs. Wild Fry, Sykes, Thomson.

Programme Committee: Messrs. Sykes and Fry.

Floor Committee: Messrs. Westhaver and Simpson.

Dallusiensia

1. What Dalhousians were included in the Halifax contingent to the North West in 1885?
2. When did the Senate turn down a petition for optional Latin in fourth year Arts?
3. When did students wear crimson as a college color?

Answers to previous questions are—

1. Dalhousie had a year book in 1911. The Graduation Number of the Gazette contained cuts of every graduate. What about this year?
2. Dean Read holds the track record for the mile walk.
3. The Gazette became a weekly in the fall of 1914.

Students Face Probs.

(Continued from page 1.)

that it was entirely our fault if we did not have the sort of government we wished to have, for we were not sufficiently interested in politics, or, when interested, allowed partisan motives to influence our decisions; "educationally" we agreed that the root of the trouble lay in early education, where antiquated methods, such as "spoon-feeding" of facts, were used to stultify the child's mind and atrophy the power of thought. Thus I discovered in this group that I was not alone in thinking that our various systems stood in need of radical revision in order to cope with rapidly changing circumstances.

Apart from study groups, most profitable hours could be spent in discussion with individual lecturers or student delegates. For my part I found such discussions the best that the conference had to offer and often carried an argument into the small hours of the morning.

Among the delegates a splendidly unconventional spirit of camaraderie prevailed. It was like old friends meeting again. Without waiting for formal introductions we spoke freely with our ever changing table companions and made new friends every day. In short I may say with every conviction that I never before spent a week as happily and profitably as the one just spent as a delegate of the Dalhousie Student Christian Movement.

It must be mentioned, however, that the eight Dalhousie representatives were not delegates in the true sense of the word. We were not chosen delegates; we went independently, paying our own expenses in full. All the other delegates of Maritime universities were paid delegates. I say this with the intention of pointing out that the Dalhousie Student Christian Movement does not enjoy the popularity a movement deserves. I have indeed good reason to believe that at least half the Dalhousie students do not know anything about the movement. It is our own fault, I admit, for we have not sufficiently advertised the movement; I have taken this opportunity of telling you about it. Give it a good try next year. Whatever your religious convictions you will find it the most edifying thing the University can offer. I, for one, am convinced that the educational institutions of the future will have their foundations laid on the present Student Christian Movement; the Second National Conference of Canadian Students has made this very clear to me.

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Can Anybody Tell Me Why?

Her name is—
Her face is fair
As lilies in July.
And I dream of her.
Every night in the year;
Can anybody tell my why?

I met her one day
While upon my way
To the school where I
learn—or try;
I wished, going up,
That we never would stop;
Can anybody tell me why?

We spoke about bonnets,
Of ballads and sonnets,
And how best to make hours go by;
We said that in classes
Professors were asses;
Can anybody tell me why?

In philosophy one
Her sweet face I scan
And forget all the logic so dry;
Of an hour so spent
I am mighty content;
Can anybody tell me why?

When I see her walk
Or hear her talk,
I shiver, I stutter, I sigh;
From her to depart
Oppresses my heart;
Can anybody tell me why?

When she's near I'm glad,
When away I'm sad—
In agitation I lie.
I never worried like this,
Something must be amiss;
Can anybody tell me why?

"G. A."

Engineers Plan Show

At a meeting of the Dalhousie Engineering Society held on December 6th it was reported that the officials of the Glee Club desired the Engineers to be responsible for some entertainment in one of the regular Glee Club shows after Christmas. The matter was discussed by the meeting and a committee was chosen to investigate the talent in the society and see if there was sufficient to justify a Glee Club performance. The committee's report which was presented at a special meeting on the following Friday was very favourable, showing that at least twenty members were able and willing to help out in a show in one way or another. With this result before the meeting, a motion was made to the effect that the Engineering Society enter an entire evening's entertainment in competition for the Glee Club shield; arrangements to be left in the hands of the executive. This motion passed unanimously. The date decided on was about the end of January, which would make it the second show after Christmas.

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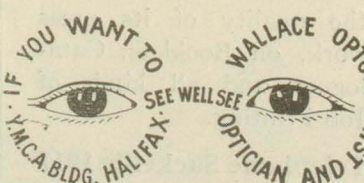
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