

The Dalhousie Gazette

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THE CANADIANS AT YPRES.

(Ap. 22, 23, 24, 1915).

They did all men could do. The smoke
of hell
Gripped at their throats but could not
force them back.
The grey-coat foe charged hotly in the
track
Swept by his iron hurricane of shell,
Resolved to win the sea-gate. None may
tell
The force he poured, attack on mad
attack,
On our brave few, as in the direst lack
Of every aid, three days they fought,—
and fell.

But they endured. They held their blood-
soaked ground.
Between the sea-gate and the desperate
foe,
Their thin, worn lines were adamant
bars.
Therefore their names with honor shall be
crowned
In their dear land's fair story, not with
woe,
And in the record they shall shine like
stars.

Archibald MacMechan.

DECORATING DALHOUSIE.

DALHOUSIE, it must be borne constantly in mind, is a little sister of Edinburgh, and the Dalhousie tradition is overwhelmingly Scottish. Strictly in accordance with that origin and that tradition, the new Dalhousie rising at Studley is architecturally severe. Indeed the features of the two new buildings are rugged plainness of rough stones and the honesty of straight lines. The Laboratory has even been denounced for its resemblance to a jail or a factory; the only concessions to a sense of the beautiful are the pillared porches of the two entrances. All has the air of "Caledonia stern and wild". Only the library with its Stoa and its Palladian window in the Reading Room suggests the glory that was Greece and the later splendors of the Renaissance. That first long-vanished Dalhousie which stood at the north end of the Grand Parade was the same as the Macdonald Memorial in style of architecture and not unlike in general design; but it was more extensively decorated. Those three tablets of stone which surmounted the old entrance and were built into the walls of the Second Dalhousie must have cost a pretty penny for the chiselling. That the present management would incur such expense is very doubtful.

In Dalhousie, the essentials have always come first, the beef and potatoes before the mustard and the pudding, the mathematics and classics before the "music, French and washing, extra." This does not imply that the extras are not valuable, or that they should be omitted altogether. Dal-

housie has her two new massive buildings at Studley, perfect fortresses of learning to the eye, capable of standing a siege, "pensive citadels" as Wordsworth might call them; now something might well be done to soften the severity of their aspect. Pallas Athene should not wear a frown, but a smile.

Nature, the kind old nurse, has begun to do her part. The good green grass has been led to the feet of the ironstone walls. Indeed in the shelter afforded by the southern face of the Big Lab., the turf began to brighten first in the city.

"There smiling Spring its earliest visit paid."

The trees before the Macdonald Memorial form a sacred and mysterious grove. The willows along the stone wall make a fine decorative fringe to the estate; and there is the outlook to the far hills beyond the Arm. A goodly situation has the New Dalhousie.

Art must come to the aid of Nature; and already plans have been formed for beautifying our new collegiate home. The President cherishes visions of a fine stained-glass memorial replacing the transparent panes of the central Palladian window in the Reading Room. As in Keats's poem, it will throw "warm gules" on the "fair breast" of the various Madeleines seated below turning the leaves of dictionary and text-book. It will prove an excellent substitute for more radiating surface on the zero days of high winds. Probably the stained glass window will be the first piece of decoration to come. As a memorial to the Dalhousians who did a man's part in the war, nothing could be more appropriate.

A stained glass window is only a beginning. A lady graduate, who is most untiring in her efforts for the good of Dalhousie, has a plan for the Alumnae to raise a fund and purchase a replica of Michael Angelo's David. It would be a constant source of inspiration.

There are many more possibilities. Concrete is not romantic, but it offers wall spaces and ceilings, ample and virgin-white, which simply cry aloud for the brush of the artist. In the Physics lecture-room, for example, how fine it would be to see the walls covered with Burne-Jones's "Six Days of Creation!" The dreamy Celtic angels with their wonderful wings and divers spheres might perhaps arouse the dullest to the notion that there was something more in Physics than strings and strains and stresses, measurements, formulas and examinations.

If the decoration of the Physics lecture-room seems too romantic, that of the Chemical theatre could be more pictorially illustrative. The history of chemistry could be depicted in fresco. The Egyptian experimenter, the Arabian sage, the mediæval alchemist searching for the elixir of life and the philosopher's stone and discovering landanum and alcohol—these are only a few of the subjects which Rosenberg, or Chauvignaud, or Lewis Smith might be

engaged to try their hands at. Professor Mackay could suggest many other subjects.

In the mathematical room, there should of course be a fresco of Archimedes in the sack of Syracuse, so intent on his geometrical problem that he paid no heed to the plundering soldier who was to cut his throat. This would point the obvious moral of concentration, regardless of consequences. Some futurist might be turned loose to furnish decoration of cubes and squares, or to illustrate the "Loves of the Triangles.

In the English room—but there is no English room!

There is also opportunity for exterior mural decoration.

Those lunettes, (or whatever they are called)—those semi-circular spaces over the windows of the Big Lab—are just the place for portrait busts of the Scientific Professors done up as Della Robbia *bambini*. I seem to see them all in white and blue majolica, swathed and swaddled more or less (to symbolize the toils of laboratory work) and stretching out their little hands in benediction over all who shall enter the doors beneath them.

A. M. M.

NEWS OF "NUMBER SEVEN."

THERE is no danger of Dalhousie losing touch with the hospital which bears its name. Col. Stewart makes long and regular reports to the President.

From them, it appears that at first there was no definite work for the unit to do. The officers and men were distributed in billets. The first inspection was held on Sir John Moore's plain, where the hero of Corunna trained the famous Light Division and laid the foundations of the modern British army. Here "the company came in for some very complimentary and encouraging remarks." Officers, men and nursing sisters were assigned different duties in various posts until the unit could find a home for itself.

The men had all sorts of "fatigues," not in the least connected with hospital work; but they made a good impression by the way they performed their duties.

One of the officers' difficulties was how to obtain a mess-room, and just as soon as they had made arrangements for a suitable place, the unit was ordered to take over the administration of Shorncliffe Military Hospital, of 400 beds, which it did on Feb. 5th. One part of this hospital dates from the Crimea; the other has just been completed. It is situated on the side of a steep hill overlooking the busy Channel. Subsidiary to this hospital are about forty smaller hospitals in Kent which are administered through it. By Feb. 10th all was in working order; and Dalhousie Hospital will "carry on," until it gets the orders it so eagerly expects for "The Western Front."

Geo. Farquhar, ('07) has gone with the 61st Batt. C. E. F., as chaplain.

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LIBRARY NOTES.

Bibliotheca sine stipendio, homo sine cruribus. - Mecanius, Suspiria de Profundis.

Ter beatus ille qui pecuniam bibliothecis donat: memoria ejus velut arbor aevo virescit. - Mecanius, De Bibliothecis.

Timor mortis me non conturbat, inquit sapiens, pecuniam multam bibliothecae collegiali dedit. Verba Septem Sapientium.

Ipsissima Verba: "All the rest and residue of my estate my Trustees shall divide into six equal parts, and pay the remaining four equal parts to the Board of Governors of Dalhousie College, and I request said Board in its discretion to apply a portion or all of said residue for the purpose of extending and maintaining the Library of said College."

Macdonald Bequest: The income from this source amounts to One Hundred Dollars per annum. By the instruction of the testator it is to be expended in the purchase of books, "chiefly in English literature." Johnson Bequest: Old Dalhousie is unthinkable without these two names, Macdonald and Johnson. They made the college at the time of our Renaissance. Both showed their interest in the Little College to the end. Professor Johnson left \$1,000 to the Library, without any specific instructions or requests as how the income is to be expended. There is only one possible object for this fund, the purchase of classical works.

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

two officials are needed. Indispensable is a trained librarian, with experience and thoroughly trained in modern methods. Otherwise Dalhousie would present the anomaly of a new building, a fair collection of books, and no proper system of using either.

Reason Why: Mr. Macnab's interest in Dalhousie's Library was aroused by what the students themselves have done for it. When all funds for its support were cut off in 1890, the suggestion was made that each class should "collect" a certain sum during its course and bestow it on the Library as a memorial of itself. At first, Big Ideas ruled. The plan proposed was something like Bobadil's for conquering a hostile army. Each student was to "collect" \$5.00 for each year of his course. He could give it himself, or he could "touch" a relative, or a local Croesus for the amount. Five dollars per student per annum for four years with an average of a class of fifty would give the handsome total of \$1,000. The Librarian saw visions and dreamed dreams of a regular income, and the collection growing at the rate of a thousand (roughly) volumes every year. Those visions were imperfectly realized; but still the results of the plan were admirable. Class after class has taxed itself for books which the authorities could not hope to purchase in the ordinary course of events, such as "The Jesuit Relations," and "Canada and its Provinces." Dalhousians understand the principle of self-help; and the results of this commendable custom are not always immediately visible. Mr. Macnab was struck with the two facts that the library had no income; and that the Dalhousians themselves made good the deficiency.

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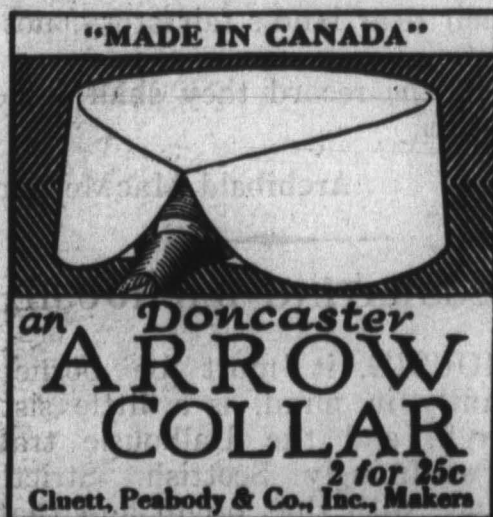
one possible object for this fund, the purchase of classical works. The money has been paid over, and invested. The income, Fifty Dollars per annum, is immediately available.

Harrington Memorial: This fund, raised by the friends of Emily Bevan Harrington ('93) has been "nursed" for several years and amounts now to more than Nine Hundred Dollars. The annual income will be about Fifty Dollars, and is now available.

Purchases: This year there have been none except in the case of periodicals and sets which are regularly taken in. It has been necessary to use the income usually devoted to buying books for cataloguing. A few gifts have dribbled in; but no considerable accessions can be made until the stack is built.

March Record: The work of cataloguing goes steadily forward, as the summary below shows:

Table with 2 columns: Item and Count. Entries include: Entries decided (76), Classified (350), Notated (344), Catalogued-books (500), cards (343), Author cards copied up (623), Books labelled and pocketed (479), Sets of cards revised (479), Cards filed (1202), Books mended (12), Subject work (5 1/2 hours), Arranging pamphlets (5 hours).



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BOOK REVIEW.

INTERNATIONAL CASES. Arbitrations and Incidents illustrative of International Law as practical by Independent States, Vol. I, Peace, by Ellery C. Stowell, Associate Professor of International Law, and Henry F. Munro, Instructor in International Law, Columbia University. Houghton Mifflin Company, Boston, 1916. 8vo. 494 pages.

This book is of special interest to Dalhousians because of the fact that Mr. Munro is one of our own graduates. Entering the second year at Dalhousie from Pictou Academy in 1895, Mr. Munro graduated in Arts in 1899, having been compelled to drop out a year owing to some impairment of health. After graduation he taught at Pictou Academy for several years, leaving there in 1911, to enter the Graduate School at Harvard, where he devoted special attention to international law and acted for a time as Assistant to Professor Wilson. He left Harvard in 1914, to accept his present position as Instructor in International Law at Columbia University.

Something more than ordinary faith may seem to be required by Professors of international law to continue lecturing on their subject these days. Our own Dr. Weldon, who lectured so many years on International Law at Dalhousie, remarked recently that he was glad he did not have to lecture on international law now. Still more faith, it may be said, is needed to venture to produce a book dealing with international law in a day when its mandates appear to have been so cynically set at naught.

But however much the circumstances of the moment may suggest that international law has been discredited, we are bound to believe that in the end it will attain new triumphs. To believe otherwise is to embrace pessimism and abandon faith in the destiny of civilization and the increasing purpose of the ages. International law is international morality, and in proportion as the individual conscience of men rises to a clearer perception of their obligations, the collective conscience of nations will express itself in an improved international morality; It may therefore be confidently expected that international law will have more rather than less of honour in the days to come, as the arbiter of international duties and obligations among civilized nations.

In avowing a belief in the ultimate triumph of international law there naturally recur to one's mind those strangely prophetic passages written by the late W. E. Hall in the preface to the third edition of his book on international law published in 1889.

After referring to the wide-spread distrust entertained by many men of affairs as to the reality of any progress in or by International Law, Mr. Hall expressed his own view as follows:—

"Looking back over the last couple of centuries we see international law at the close of each fifty years in a more solid position than that which it occupied at the beginning of the period. Progressively it has taken firmer hold, it has extended its sphere of operation. But it would be idle to pretend that this progress has gone on without check. In times when wars have been both long and bitter, men have fallen back into disregard of law and even into true lawlessness. And it would be idle also to pretend that

Europe is not now in great likelihood moving towards a time at which the strength of international law will be too hardly tried. Probably in the next great war the questions which have accumulated during the last half century and more, will all be given their answers at once. Some hates moreover will crave for satisfaction; much envy and greed will be at work; but above all, and at the bottom of all, there will be the hard sense of necessity. Whole nations will be in the field; national existences will be at stake; men will be tempted to do anything which will shorten hostilities and tend to a decisive issue. Conduct in the next great war will certainly be hard; it is very doubtful if it will be scrupulous; and most likely the next war will be great. But there can be very little doubt that if the next war is unscrupulously waged; it will also be followed by a reaction towards increased stringency of law. In a community, as in an individual, passion at excess is followed by a reaction of conscience. Continuing temptation ceases with the war. I therefore look forward with much misgiving to the manner in which the next great war will be waged, but with no misgiving at all as to the character of the rules which will be acknowledged ten years after its termination, by comparison with the rules now considered to exist."

There are two main defects from which international law has always suffered. The first is the absence of what jurists call an effective sanction. Ordinary law is enforced ultimately by the armed force of the State of which it is the law, but international law depends for its enforcement on nothing more effective than the 'common sense of most' of the nations, on international public opinion, or at most on the indignation of the nation wronged. There is for international law no public international prosecutor. There is not even an authoritative international tribunal before which the party grieved can prosecute 'an appeal of felony'—to use an expression borrowed from the old days when crime was punished by private action and not by public indictment. The plaintiff cannot compel the attendance of the defendant on pain of international outlawry or by any other process.

That one result of the present war of civilization against trained savagery will be the enthronement of international law on a higher and more imperial throne than ever occupied before, is or must be the belief of all who look for the triumph of the Allies. That that enthronement may be accompanied by some sort of effectual sanction which will enable International Law not only to determine justice between the nations but to have at command the force necessary to make its determinations obeyed, that too must surely be the prayer if not the hope of all. It can hardly be hoped that the battle flags will ever be permanently furled in the Parliament of Man until some way is devised of giving executive sanction to its enactments. To see such a sanction realized for International Law may be the earnest desire of the teacher of the subject, but he should not make his instruction a mere vehicle for a pacifist propaganda. Otherwise his instruction will inevitably degenerate into discussions of what ought to be the rules instead of what they actually are. It is gratifying to note that the authors of the present volume have not attempted in

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A DRAMATIC ADVENTURE.

any way to play the role of the professional pacifist.

The other main defect from which international has suffered has been the feeling that its rules lack a positive and definite character, varying according to the theory of this or that writer of authority. Here is where the instructor or maker of a text-book on international law can do most good. If instead of following doctrinaire theorists who seek to formulate what the ideal rules should be, he contents himself with presenting, primarily at least, the actual usage of civilized nations in their international relations and the principles on which they have settled their differences, he will do much to redeem the subject from the reproach of indefiniteness and variability associated with it in popular consciousness, and will correspondingly enhance the respect paid to it. From this point of view the authors of the present volume may be said to have rendered a distinct service to their subject and to teachers of international law. They have succeeded in producing a harmonious combination of cases which may well serve as an admirable basis for class-room instruction. Perhaps in no subject is the case method of instruction so superior as in international law, for outside of the cases this body of law is surely in nubibus. And the authors appear to have done their work well. The cases and arbitrations, some hundred and fifty in number, have been carefully selected with a view to the proper emphasis on the most important of international relations. The authors have not attempted too much. Both in what they include and what they exclude they have shown judgment. They include real cases; they do not include the judicial rubble of obiter dicta. They do not clog the text with obtrusive opinions. They leave something for the instructor who uses the book to say.

Not the least valuable feature of the volume is to be found in the preface—in the excellent suggestions, valuable to student and instructor alike, as to the best method of using the material provided in the body of the book.

On the whole the book represents a piece of work well worth doing and worthily done. Teachers will look forward with particular interest to the companion volume on "War," which seems to be promised by the title of this volume. Dalhousie extends her congratulations, and her *macte iritute* to the junior author.

THE C. M. R.'S.

I wish my mother could see me now
On guard in the muddy trench
With a bomb tucked snugly under my arm
And my gun on the firing bench.
Clad in a garb of earthy hue
And my face unwashed for weeks,
With torrents of rain coming down on my head
And mud to the knees of my breeks.

We used to think we were cavalry once;
They called us the C. M. R.'s.
We used to think we'd get lances once,
And didn't we put on airs.
We used to strut round with spurs and whips
And pistols and Stetson hats,
But now we're holding the front line trench,
The C. M. R.'s and the rats.

Vincent C. MacDonald,
Class '19.

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Lip to lip and heart to heart;
Can it be that we must part?
Ne'er the Gods of 'Lympos knew
Woodnymph half so fair as you.

Drink the love my eyes express,
Let them prove its tenderness.
From my soul the incense due
Rises, Goddess, pure to you.

See, I give thee this small token;
Know by this a heart is broken;
Grant me but one curl of hair,
This to keep for aye, I swear.

Der Traeumer.

AGNES VERSUS DORA

(From an old Red Book)

MR. CHESTERTON says that David's marriage, with Dora was his real marriage, that with Agnes being nothing, a middle aged compromise, a taking of the second best.

I do not agree with him; instead of his taking Agnes as second best, it was the finding, at last, of his real love. That he was fond of Dora, and that his infatuation lasted while she lived, cannot be denied; that, also, he thought himself in love with her is true, but so he did in the case of Miss Sheppard, the little school girl of Miss Nettingall's establishment. What thrills he felt "going up his jacket sleeve and coming out at his hair!" Just think of the seedy biscuits he gives her, and the innumerable oranges! How great is his agony when he heard she was made to stand in the stocks for turning in her toes, and even more so when he heard that she preferred Master Jones, and finally the face she made at him, which separated them forever! If these things had happened to Dora, what would have followed? No doubt the outcome would have been the same.

In the course of a few more years David is in love again. He worships Miss Larkins, and is in agony when he sees her talking to officers in the street. He spends half his time in walking where he will meet her, suffers agonies on the night of the race-ball, when he knows she will dance with the military. His passion even seriously affects his appetite and he must clean his boots continually. Is not his passion for Dora of the same quality? Does he not ride gallant greys and wear tight boots for Dora? He even puts himself out of the way to meet Mr. Larkins ("a gruff old gentleman, with a double chin, and one of his eyes immoveable in his head") to inquire after the health of the young ladies Larkins. He takes walks regularly in front of her house every evening, and is consumed with jealousy as he watches the army officers go in and out, and even after everyone else has gone to bed, he walks around and around the house thinking blissful thoughts. Could anyone appear more deeply in love, and did David not have exactly the same symptoms in his Dora-infatuation? If he had been told of the approaching marriage of Dora with Mr. Chestle, the hop grower, would he not have been utterly inconsolable for a week or two, wearing his oldest clothes and a very downcast expression, and then being tired of that kind of life,

would he not have thrown away the faded flower and regained his appetite?

But would this have been so in the case of Agnes? Nay, she had been a part of his life too long, since they were children; she had been growing on him since the old school days at Mr. Wickfield's. He had got to look upon her as a sister, but she was always with him; he carried her image everywhere; and this does not generally happen to sisters; even his engagement to Dora would not have been complete, as he himself says, unless it had been for Agnes, sympathy and understanding. She was necessary to his happiness. Even after his engagement to Dora, when he is worrying over her father's death and his consequent separation from her, he comes naturally to Agnes for advice. He recognizes the influence she has over him, but does not know what it is. He says, "Whenever I have not had you, Agnes, to advise and approve in the beginning, I have seemed to go wild and to get into difficulty. When I have come to you, at last (as I have always done) I have come to peace and happiness. I come home now, like a tired traveller, and find such a blessed scene of rest."

He even tries to find out what this influence is, but he, in the words of Miss Trotwood, is "Blind! Blind!" He asks her, "What is it? What is your secret, Agnes?" Even then he is too blind to see what the secret is. He does not know his own heart, he only knows that Agnes is necessary to his happiness.

David's anger, on hearing of Uriah Heep's pretensions to Agnes' hand, could hardly have been greater. Even then he did not understand the cause of his jealousy. He thought it was because Uriah was so utterly unworthy of Agnes, as he would have been to any woman of Agnes' character, and because Agnes was so far removed above him, when it was really his own heart protesting against anyone else having the right to love her; and what an anguished appeal he makes to Agnes, after Uriah has declared that she, and only she will be his wife!

"Say you have no such thought, dear Agnes! much more than sister! Think of the priceless gift of such a heart as yours, of such a love as yours."

But his understanding, when at last it does come, is so complete that we cannot fail to recognize it. His blindness, his folly that have taken away years of happiness all rise up before him when he says "Agnes! Ever my guide and best support! If you had been more mindful of yourself and less of me, when we grew up here together, I think my heedless fancy would never have wandered from you. But you were so much better than I, so necessary to me in every boyish hope and disappointment, that to have you to confide in and rely upon in everything became a second nature, supplanting, for the time, the first and greater one of loving you." Could anything show David's real feelings more clearly than this.

But the crowning reason is that Agnes filled his mind at the very time in his life, if there had been one, when she would most likely be banished from his thoughts. This was at the time of his engagement to Dora. But he says "When I loved her, even then, my love would have been incomplete without your sympathy. I had it, and it was perfected, and when I lost her, Agnes, what should I have been without you still!"

THE RUBAIYAT OF A HACK-WRITER

"I love my Kipling—but O-mar Khayyam."

Wake! for the clatter of the Letter-slot
Proclaims the Postman to decide my lot.
It may be that the letter, enclosing check,
Lies on my chamber floor—and maybe not.

Each morn a dozen Letters brings, you say;
Yes, but I mailed a Dozen yesterday.
The Postman brings rejected Verse at Dawn
At Eve I send it once more on its Way.

A Book of Tickets, good for two weeks' Feed
A Glass, some Cigarettes, a Book to read,
And some kind Editor to buy my Things—
Even New York were Paradise indeed!

Some to collect my Laundry Bill, and some
Cry for a Clothing settlement to come.
"Aht Take the Cash and let the Credit go,"
Said Omar—but the Cash makes quite a sum.

My Room-mate has departed for a Tea,
Clad in the gayest raiment loaned by Me;
And if I borrowed it from Someone else,
What matter if he borrowed it from Thee?

Myself, when young, did eagerly aspire
To seek the heights, and constantly mount
higher;

But since the Mt. McKinley episode
I fear to climb, lest someone murmur "Hah!"

Indeed, the idols I have loved so long,
The Cup, and Poetry have turned out wrong.
I make my reputation by the First—
And lose a little more with every Song!

The Hack-Writer.

CORRESPONDENCE

Mr. Editor;—As an alumnus of Dal-
housie and one who has the interests of the
university at heart, I wish to criticize
the Y. M. C. A. handbook which is annual-
ly distributed among the students. This
contains much valuable information but
seems to omit much which is of vital im-
portance.

For example, a Freshman is only too
prone to embark on some vast undertaking
without first sitting down, like the king
in the Scriptures, and counting the cost.
The verdantus, enamoured by beauty's
eyes, might rashly take on himself the task
of wooing a young lady and as a conse-
quence end in the bankruptcy court. To
prevent much worry and unconsidered
expense I would recommend that statis-
tics such as the following be attached to
the handbook as an appendix.

I will consider the cost of enjoying the
company of a young lady student, estima-
ted on the basis of hours spent in her com-
pany during the week with attendant ex-
pense. This is based on statistics collected
with great pains by personal observation
extending over many weary years. In
calculating car fare, some residence must
be considered, hence the residence of the
average co-ed's is taken to be on South
Park St., and the residence of the average
male student near the North-West Arm.
The table is drawn up on the self-evident
assumption that a college man must escort
a college girl to some place of amusement
or instruction in order to see anything of
her.

Table with 2 columns: Day/Event, Cost. Includes Sunday-Church, Monday-Lecture, Tuesday-Orpheus, Wednesday-Rink, Thursday-Academy, Friday-Debate, Saturday-Runk, and Total for the week.

This gives the average cost of one
hour's company to be thirty cents, that is
½ a cent a minute.

Now a conservative estimate of the
number of hours spent per week by the
average student in the company of his in-
amorated would be eight; i. e. the cost
would be \$2.50 per week. Taking thirty
weeks to the college term, I find that the
student spends \$75.00 in this way. The
Dalhousie male students number about
three hundred. They spend, therefore,
\$22,500 in seeking the company of young
ladies. How much more profitable would
it be if this money were to be devoted to
other purposes. The sum of \$22,500 would
buy 45,000 Bibles for the heathen of West
Africa or it would support ten missionaries
with their families in Trinidad, or, accord-
ing to information received from the Red
Cross Society, it would furnish 2,278,956
bandages f. o. b. London.

While investigating the above matter I
have collected statistics on many other
things of importance, particularly those
which will be of interest to the fairer sex,
and which will solve a mysery which has
been puzzling them for some time.
If this meets with your approval, I
shall be only too pleased to lay before the
public the other facts which are in my
possession.

Yours truly, G. A. M.

Sir:—Had the chronology agreed, one
could have said with certainty that Oscar
Wilde had in mind a certain letter to the
"Gazette" of last issue when he wrote
Mediocrity weighing mediocrity in the
balance and incompetence applauding its
brother. Mr. Melvin has taken upon
himself the very difficult task of proving
Meiklejohn a fitting book for the study of
Grade XI pupils—and it is even more
difficult to discover on what grounds he
does so.

He says that "Meiklejohn is a valuable
book." Of that there can be no question.
As an encyclopedia of English Literature
it is undoubtedly excellent, but the real
issue is whether it is suitable for High School
study, and whether or not a better one can
be obtained. I still maintain that it is
little fitted for use as a High School book,
because it makes not the slightest preten-
sion at being interesting, and is merely one
weary complication of dates, authors, poets
and books, which the average pupil natu-
rally abhors. Why not adopt a book such
as Gilbert's "English Writers" which,
though giving practically all the material
contained in the unmentionable treatise,

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all officers on the active list of the Imperial army,
lent for the purpose, and there is in addition a com-
plete staff of professors for the civil subjects which
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tion.

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Ont., or to the Commandant, Royal Military College,
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Advertisement for Clayton & Sons, featuring 'SUIT SERVICE' and 'Fine Custom Tailoring' with prices for various suits.

gives it in such a fresh, easy and interesting
way that the student is immediately attract-
ed by it, and wishes to know more of the
authors therein described. It may be
painful to remind the counsel for Meikle-
john that not only Gilbert but the Encyclo-
pædia Britannica also adopts "the hop-skip-
and-jump method of periods" to a large
degree, and therefore no doubt also merits
his scathing criticisms that it produces
"inevitable confusion."

A teacher who can make the "dull
places" (as Mr. Melvin aptly describes
them) "shine," deserves a higher position
in the world than that of a mere pedagogue.
He had better apply himself to some other
Herculean task, such as squaring the circle
or duplicating the cube, which will give a
larger field and a freer scope to such vast
abilities as he must possess.

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