

The Dalhousie Gazette.

“ORA ET LABORA.”

VOL. XXVII. HALIFAX, N. S., - FEBRUARY 13, 1895. No. 6.

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TROUBLE AT TORONTO.

FRIC⁹TION between students and the authorities exists in the University of Toronto at present and something of the nature of a deadlock has ensued. If one may judge by newspaper reports, the affair is one of considerable magnitude, and likely to assume more formidable dimensions before a settlement is reached. As we understand it, the case is somewhat as follows:—A students' society for the study of political science organized a lecture course to be delivered during the winter in the Gymnasium hall. Among the lecturers were two well known and highly respected labor leaders who are, however, said to hold unorthodox views on religious questions. The College authorities, it is said, refused to allow the building to be desecrated by these unbelieving theorists even though the subjects of their lectures were purely secular. The students' organ, the Varsity in a rather cutting editorial commented severely on the action of the "Dons" and hinted that they themselves were freely daubed with heretical mud. As a consequence, the paper

was suppressed and steps at once taken to expel the chief editor from College. That gentleman generously proposed to the students that he should apologize over his own signature and thus assume the whole responsibility. To their everlasting credit, they refused to allow him, and are standing manfully at his back. What the issue will be is hard to determine, but the professors will hardly enjoy lecturing to empty benches, and this is what seems likely to take place unless the Ontario Government intervenes. The Toronto students have the hearty sympathy of their brethren down by the sea, and with them we all hope for a speedy and happy solution of the difficulty. It does seem like a return to the Dark Ages to demand a religious test of men, eminently qualified to speak on their own particular subjects. That such a University as "Toronto," looked up to as she is by her smaller sisters throughout the Dominion, should take such a step is indeed regrettable.

Happily for Dalhousie, "differences" with the "powers that be" are practically unknown and we, when hearing of "wars and rumors of wars" elsewhere, only hope for a continuance of our own peaceful and happy relations with those whom fortune has placed over us.

IN our last issue we published the programme of a series of lectures upon the *Methods of Teaching*, that are to be delivered weekly during the remaining part of the session. These lectures have been arranged in connection with the Education Class in the Faculty of Science, but the privilege of attending them is not restricted to the members of this class. All the students of the University and the city teachers, are cordially invited to be present. No fee is charged. The lecturers are, without exception, acknowledged to be master teachers in their own subjects, and what they have to say on the method of teaching can be received as being the experience of men who have made teaching a success. The subjects under discussion embrace Mathematics, History, Botany, Physics, Arithmetic, English, Classics. There are a great many of our students who are studying to equip themselves for the teaching profession; and by these such a course of lectures will be warmly welcomed. That they are also appreciated by others is shewn in the fact that the Supervisor of the city schools has requested

all the city teachers to be present. The attendance so far has been very large. The Faculty must feel gratified that their efforts have met with such success. These lectures are given in the Examination Hall, from 4.30 to 5.30 every Friday afternoon. In another column we give a brief account of those already delivered.

IT seems to be a fact that the scrimmage is dead. No longer are the yells of contending Freshmen and Sophomores heard throughout the College Halls. No longer do we see the brawny arms thrusting some poor unfortunate, unlucky enough to fall into their hands, full ten feet in the air. All is peace and harmony; and Freshie and Soph. go arm in arm like loving brothers. Whether this change has been brought about by the "Two dollars fine and three weeks suspension," so frequently imposed, or by a more manly feeling of respect on the part of the students for each other, or by a dread of such accidents happening as occurred at Cornell a few years ago, it is not ours to say. We welcome the change. When the classes were small the scrimmage was a bit of fun. But when we have a Freshman class of seventy pitted against a Sophomore class of fifty-five, it becomes no fun at all, except, perhaps, for those who are looking on. And the altruistic spirit has so grown that even *they* will consent to deny themselves for the sake of the younger brethren. Since the scrimmage has gone—is dead—we trust that it may prove an exception to the general resurrection law, and never be heard of again within the College walls. *Requiescat in pace.*

THE New Brunswick Alumni Prize, of the value of fifty dollars, which was not awarded at the Matriculation Examination last September, is to be given next spring to the most successful student of the first year, Arts or Science. The student's standing will be determined as it is in making the award of the North British Society Bursary in the second year, *i. e.*, the value of the Distinction work as compared with the Pass work will be increased.

THE University of Chicago has purchased the library and manuscripts of the historian Bancroft. The sum paid was \$80,000. The library now consists of 225,000 volumes, and is said to be the largest university library in America.

Contributed Articles.

A RETROSPECTIVE GLANCE.

THE caption above given yields so little information to the reader that it may be as well to state in this first sentence that the purport of this article is to take a backward glance at the progress which Dalhousie University has made, as shewn by the attendance of students during the several years that it has been in existence. Comparisons at times may be odious, but when such comparison is made of figures and not of persons such an objection does not hold good. On the contrary, the only true way by which we can prove our growth is by comparing our present stature with that of years gone by. The first graduating class of Dalhousie numbered only two, while at the next convocation it is probable that no less than fifty-five will receive degrees. Thus the present, as compared with the beginning, shews progress, and perhaps it may be thought by some to be great progress. This paper will endeavor to trace in some measure the growth during these nearly thirty years that Dalhousie has been sending out graduates into the world.

To begin with a little of history. It is well known that the founding of Dalhousie took place in the year 1821, although the first degree was not granted until 1866, or forty-five years afterwards. For the most part during these many years the college was closed, owing to lack of funds, intense denominational and party feelings, and to other causes. But for some six years, from 1838-45, the college was opened under the Presidency of Rev. Thomas McCulloch, assisted by two other professors. Although several students passed all necessary examinations, no degrees were actually conferred during these years.¹ Shortly after Dr. McCulloch's death the college was closed, and not opened again as a University until the fall of 1863. Since that time the classes having been going on every winter, and its career has not been checked. In 1866 it sent forth its first Bachelor of Arts, and three years later it for the first time conferred the degree of Master of Arts.

Below there is given a table showing the number of degrees that have been granted from the year 1866 to the year 1894. The table needs no commentary, and is itself the strongest evidence that can be given of the progress which Dalhousie has made during the thirty years of its working life. It began humbly, and on the first graduating day there were but two who

¹See *The History of Dalhousie College and University*, by George Patterson, M. A., p. 35.

were esteemed worthy to receive the prize. But on the following year this number had increased to nine. During the next half-dozen years it fluctuated between these two points. Considering the long terrible struggle that the college had undergone before it was allowed to perform its function, this slowness of the progress at the first is not remarkable. It had many enemies to cry it down, and there were not a few who would have rejoiced with great joy had it been compelled to close its doors again. But no such thing happened. It had a mission to perform with regard to higher education in the Maritime Provinces, and to that mission it has ever remained faithful in spite of the cries of jealous opponents.

Number of Persons that Graduated each Year from 1866 to 1894.

YEAR.	B. A.	M. A.	M. D.	B. Sc.	LL. B.	B. L.	M. L.	LL. D.	TOTALS.
1866	2								2
1867	9								9
1868	6								6
1869	5	1							6
1870	4	2							6
1871	3	3							6
1872	9	4	5						18
1873	12								12
1874	7	1	3						11
1875	5	2	5						12
1876	8	1							9
1877	14								14
1878	8	5							13
1879	5								5
1880	5	3	1						9
1881	5	2							7
1882	12								12
1883	6	1	3						10
1884	8		1						9
1885	12		2		10				24
1886	15			1	12				28
1887	14	3			12	1			30
1888	15	2			10				27
1889	16				11				27
1890	17	2	1		18				38
1891	24	2	2		13	2			43
1892	19	1	6	1	19	1		4	51
1893	21	1	6	2	21		1	1	53
1894	27	5	3	1	11	1			48
Totals.....	313	41	31	12	137	5	1	5	545

In the year 1868 a step forward was taken, and there was organized in connection with the University a faculty of medicine. In 1872 in addition to the thirteen Arts graduates, there were five students who graduated from the Medical Faculty, receiving the degree of M. D., C. M. In 1875 this Faculty developed into the Halifax Medical College. But ten years later (1885) by the affiliation of this latter it was re-organized; and the Faculty of

Medicine to-day promises to be one of the most successful branches of the University. In 1880 the University first granted the degree of B. Sc. In 1891 the Science Department was separated from the Arts Faculty and there was formed the "Faculty of Pure and Applied Science." This faculty is thus as yet in its infancy, and there is lacking many of the opportunities of practical engineering that are available elsewhere. But under the able direction of Prof. J. G. MacGregor, with a staff of fourteen professors and lecturers, it is sure to become one of the great attractions for students with a scientific turn of mind.

In 1883 there was organized a Law Faculty. From the first this was an unqualified success. It sprang into favor immediately and filled a long felt want. The first graduating class (1885) numbered ten. Since that time the degree of LL. B. has been conferred on 137 candidates, or an average of 13.7 each year. Much of the success of the Law School is due to the excellence of its training. It is not surpassed by any other in the Dominion.

The degree of Bachelor of Letters and Master of Letters, awarded for the first time in 1887 and in 1893 respectively, are given through the Faculty of Arts. They represent more of a literary course than does the B. A.

In the year 1892 Dalhousie made a departure from her usual custom, and for the first time conferred an honorary degree. Only five such degrees have been given. Those who have been considered worthy of this honor are Rev. Principal Grant, of Queen's University, the late Sir John S. D. Thompson, A. H. McKay, Supt. of Education for N. S., Edwin Gilpin, Jr., Inspector of Mines, and Robert Sedgewick, Judge of Supreme Court of Canada.

Perhaps a clearer view of the progress which Dalhousie has made would be obtained by giving the above table condensed into periods of five years, as below. From this we can see the average number of graduates in each year of the five. After the first five years we notice that the numbers are stationary for about fifteen years, and then the increase becomes large and rapid. No doubt the liberality of George Munro of New York, in founding chairs and giving bursaries, together with the addition of the Law School above noticed, has had much to do with this increase. It is also cheering to note that by far the greatest increase has taken place in the numbers of the Arts' graduates. The Arts Faculty should ever remain the main stay of a university. From present appearances there is every reason for believing that this increase will continue. It was thought by some that when the Munro Bursaries were withdrawn there would be a great falling off in the attendance at the Arts Faculty. Such fears were, however, groundless. Each successive incoming class has been larger than the one before. The

present Freshman class numbers some seventy, of whom between forty and fifty are undergraduates. This year's Arts' graduating class will probably be the largest yet, numbering twenty-eight.

Graduates of Dalhousie for each Period of Five Years from 1866-1894.

	B. A.	M. A.	M. D.	B. Sc.	LL. B.	B. L.	M. L.	LL. D.	TOTALS.	Average per Year.
*1866-69.....	22	1	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	23	5.75
1869-74.....	35	10	8	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	10.6
1875-79.....	40	8	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	53	10.6
1880-84.....	36	6	.....	5	.....	.....	.....	.....	47	9.4
1885-89.....	72	4	.....	3	55	1	.....	.....	135	27.
1890-94.....	108	11	19	4	82	4	1	5	234	46.8
	313	40	32	12	137	5	1	5	545	

*Only four years.

But the success of an institution like Dalhousie cannot be wholly determined by the number of its graduates. There is a large class of students who come for special studies, who wish instruction in some group of related subjects, who cannot afford the time to spend four years in college but desire the benefit of certain classes.

What progress has Dalhousie made as shewn by the number of students who attend? The answer is given in the third table, which is printed herewith. The increase has been steady from the first. During the first five years the average attendance of students of all classes was 64.6. During the next five this had increased to 97.4, and from that to 102.2, and then to 127.2.

Total number of Students attending Classes, arranged in Periods of Five Years.

YEAR.	ARTS.		MEDICAL.		SCIENCE.		LAW.		Graduated Students.	TOTALS.	Average per Year.
	Ungrad.	Gen.	Ungrad.	Gen.	Ungrad.	Med.	Ungrad.	Gen.			
*1864-68.....	148	139	36	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....	323	64.6
1869-73.....	235	118	132	.....	2	.....	.....	.....	.....	487	97.4
1874-78.....	231	206	35	.....	2	31	.....	.....	6	511	102.2
1879-83.....	260	243	.....	.....	29	49	24	31	.....	636	127.2
1884-88.....	385	280	34	6	.....	.....	197	55	.....	957	191.4
1889-93.....	490	255	171	10	20	22	236	67	5	1276	255.2

*The number of students attending during the Session 1864-65 could not be accurately ascertained in time for publication, so that the above returns for the first five years are only approximately correct. The students of the opening year of the College, that of 1863-64, (40 Undergraduates and 20 Generals) are not included in the above.

During the fifth period the yearly average was 191.4, and from 1889-93 this has reached 255.2. This present year there are not less than 300 students attending Dalhousie, of whom 180 belong

to the Arts Faculty. These numbers, when contrasted with those of the larger universities in America, may seem small and insignificant, but when compared with the beginnings they are very large. We cannot become great all in a moment. It takes time for growth. Those very large colleges were themselves at one time small. Dalhousie will grow even as did they. She has had misfortunes with which they never had to contend. She has come through great tribulation. But during the thirty years that she has been firmly established her career has been one of sure and steady progress that augurs well for the future.

In this short sketch I have only considered the signs of progress as shewn by the numbers of graduates and students. But that is only half the story. The other half, however, for the present must go untold. I can only here refer to what George Munro has done in the way of founding chairs and giving bursaries. His name will ever be held in warm remembrance by thankful students. And there are other men who nobly came forward and by their gifts helped the university to pave its way through many a difficulty. We have a building, erected only ten years ago, of which we well may be proud. And this only adds one more to the signs of progress, for whereas, when built, there was room and abundance to spare, now already are we beginning to feel cramped. The University began with a teaching staff of six professors, but now it has in all thirty-eight professors, lecturers and examiners. These are all signs of the times—signs of which we ought to take note, not so much that they may be gloried in, as that they may not be misused.

R. G. S.

THE NOVEL AS A LITERARY FORM.

THE thoughtful observer must be impressed by the place which the novel holds in modern literature. The presses of large printing establishments are pouring forth a flood of these publications all over the land. The masses of the people find the greater part of their reading matter, apart from newspapers and magazines, in this form. There are many, it may be, who do not regard this predominance of the novel as one of the special blessings of the age. It is for them still an open question, whether novel reading exercises a healthful, educative influence upon the mind. But the very greatness of demand for this species of literature, as well as its attractiveness, should lead us to surmise that it may serve a really useful purpose. Does wholesome food lose its value when presented in attractive dishes? Must moral and religious truth be clad only in the simplest and homeliest garb? Have we been endowed with the faculty of imagination, to be told that the grandest and most inspiring truths we know must be dealt with in the most prosaic

manner? Why is this class of literature so seductive? Why does it take hold of us with so firm a grip? These are questions which must be met with clearer argument than an ominous shake of the head.

As a distinct form in literature, the novel is a recent development. Beginning, we may say, in 1740, with Richardson's "Pamela," it has in the short course of one hundred and fifty years risen to its present high position. This, itself, would indicate that the novel has its justification in the nature of things, and has a mission to perform. When this is more fully understood, greater care will be taken to utilize this agency in the service of noble and beneficent effort.

The great interest of the novel lies in its delineation of life. Life in its every aspect is interesting, and for us possesses supreme attractiveness. In the earlier days of art the more refined imaginations of men found adequate expression in simple poetical forms. When, however, the relations of men to one another had to be portrayed more fully, this was done by means of the Drama. But when a still fuller revelation of life pressed for expression, when the personality of the actor became more distinct, and when a deeper interest centered in the unveiling of the desires, impulses, and motives under which men act, then a wider stage was needed; and this was found in a new literary form, the novel. Here the artist finds a broader canvas upon which to portray his conceptions. He is able to show to us 'the very heart of the machine.' We see life in all its varying phases, subject to the multiplex forces which play upon it.

Thus the Drama has naturally been replaced by this far more flexible form. The architectural design is, in general outline, still the same; but the details are more elaborate. There are the same divisions, perhaps not so clearly marked; the same folding and unfolding of the plot. The subject and the method of treatment remain unchanged, but to the dialogue is added more of narrative and description. In this manner a literary form has been perfected by means of which the whole of human life may be suitably represented.

It is interesting to notice, that, when the English novel first comes to light, its mission is distinctly announced. Richardson had been asked to furnish a volume of letters on different subjects which might serve as models for uneducated persons. This he deemed an opportunity not only to teach young people how they should write, but also to instruct them how they should act in certain cases. The outcome of his effort is our first novel. He takes for his heroine a servant girl, the daughter of a farmer, and carries her pure through a long series of villainous plots, which have been formed against her. The instigator of these plots is the master of the house where she is at service; and who, at last, in a fit of goodness, marries her as a reward of her

sterling integrity. All this is told in two volumes, and two others relate the story of their happy wedded life. The whole novel is written in the form of letters which pass between the characters. Speaking of his work the author says, "I have sought to introduce a new species of writing that might possibly turn young people into a course of reading different from the pomp and parade of romance writing, and promote the cause of religion and virtue."

Here then we have a clear and true note sounded. But when we look to the carrying out of this ideal we are disappointed. We cannot but feel that the writers of that date, although their works are now classical, were sadly incompetent of fulfilling this design, and had but very inadequate knowledge of its true requirements. Even Richardson's view of the rewards of virtue is not only unsound but subversive of true morality. Over the writings of Fielding, Smollett, Sterne, and others lies the dark smudge of impurity. In Goldsmith's "Vicar of Wakefield," 1766, we come into a more healthful atmosphere. In 1814, Sir Walter Scott, "The Wizard of the North" took the world by storm in the enchanting tale of "Waverly." And in more recent times, in the writings of such authors as Thackeray, Dickens, and George Eliot the novel appears to have reached its true place, and manifests its effectiveness as a moral agency.

That much of this literature has failed to attain this ideal, that much is evil and pernicious in its tendency, cannot be denied. But this is no reason for abjuring that which is sound and healthful. We must learn to discriminate and not so impetuously consign the wheat and chaff alike to the flames. Take for example the works of Sir Walter Scott. Where, else, can be found such graphic repainting of the past, such hearty sympathy with life in all its forms; such high and noble embodiments of ideal character? One cannot rise from the perusal of these delightful books without having a wider, deeper, and fuller conception of life. Or, to choose another illustration, where can we find such skilful dissections of character, such subtle analysis of moral situations, such true sympathy with life as life, as in the writings of George Eliot? Who can read her pages without learning to know better both himself and his fellow-man?

Here, then, we have a sphere in which the true artist may labor to enrich the world by his genius. Here we may expect to see ideal character in all its beauty represented. Here we may learn to know and understand ourselves. It may, however, be objected that the sphere is not so wide as we have supposed; that only a partial and unsatisfactory view of life can be given in the novel; that love is made a too prominent motive. But let us consider that our interest centres rather in character, in the personalities, and in the situations portrayed. This is the distinguishing feature of the modern novel. It has emphasized

the value of the individual apart from all adventitious circumstances. We are drawn toward the humbler manifestations of life as well as to the higher. We are as deeply interested in the revelations of dawning reason, as in those of the philosophic consciousness which would seek to read the riddle of the universe. It is true that love occupies a most prominent place, but, can we have a true representation of ideal life, without that which is its crowning glory?

Less readily have the claims of this literary form been allowed in the domain of religious truth. Although a considerable portion of the religious literature, which is read to-day, is of this character, yet much of this is marked by narrowness rather than by the breadth of true insight. There is danger of over-reaching ourselves in our zeal for truth. Why should we prefer the small and meagre views of life, which such books contain, to the broad and full presentation of the master workman? Is it not because of a delusive mist of seeming sanctity which appears to envelope the former? After all it is not a science of life, but life itself we want.

"'Tis life of which our nerves are scant,
More life and fuller that we want."

Why then should we hesitate to avail ourselves of the very best presentations of pure and lofty ideals?"

Would we, in turn, learn to analyze character, we may well sit at the feet of those, who have been endowed with faculties by means of which the truest and loftiest conceptions of life are made flesh and blood and placed in living reality before us. Have we ourselves been gifted with the prophetic vision, here is an ample sphere in which to exercise our talent. Why should we be insensible to the crying need of humanity for such food with which to satisfy its hunger? Why should not the value of this literary form, so suitable for the full and true representation of life in all its reality and attractiveness, come to be more generally recognized and more wisely employed in the service of mankind?

K.

MAUD.

(Concluded.)

WE have now to look more particularly at the substance of "Maud." "Sweetest nut has sourest rind," says Touchstone, and it may be that the thought and message within the rugged envelope is noble and inspiring. About the love strain, which is the soul of the poem, there can be no two opinions, it is transcendently beautiful. Around it, the other parts range themselves, like pitchy clouds around the moon, to the great increase of its loveliness and their own ob-

scurity. Much of the criticism against the substance of "Maud" has proceeded from wrong premises. Tennyson has been regarded as giving expression to his own views and feelings. Nothing could be more inaccurate. The speaker is a lonely, morbid young man, touched with inherited madness, to whom suddenly, mysterious, transforming love comes. Tennyson's task was to divest himself of himself, and think and speak and sing as such a character would think and speak and sing. The very second line to any one who knows Tennyson's knowledge of nature and mastery of her secrets, shows that the poet is not speaking in his own person. There is no such thing in nature as "blood-red heath;" but one of the most popularly recognized symptoms of incipient madness is a constant recurrence to the idea of blood, and the color red. The expression is used by Tennyson to put us as it were, on our guard, to assure us that another voice than his own, that of a madman, is speaking. Farther on, but still in the first canto, we have the hero's trust in the results of war given in these remarkable lines:—

"For I trust if an enemy's fleet came yonder round by the hill,
And the rushing battle-bolt sang from the three-decker out of the foam,
That the smooth-faced snub-nosed rogue would leap from his counter and till,
And strike, if he could, were it but with his cheating yard wand, home."

This, surely, is the belief of an unhinged reason. The sane man knows that the merchant who cheats in peace, in times of war will secure a Government contract and supply cheap clothes and nasty, to the suffering soldiery. If more is necessary to disabuse one of the idea that Tennyson in "Maud" was giving voice to his own feelings and thoughts, let him read the denunciations of new made fortunes and new made titles, and ask himself, if the man who wrote that the poet should be dowered with "the scorn of scorn," would himself entertain such sentiments. Says the speaker of John Bright:—

"Last week came one to the county town,
To preach our poor little army down,
And play the game of the despot kings,
Tho' the state has done it, and thrice as well:
This broad-brimmed hawker of holy things,
Whose ear is crammed with his cotton, and rings
Even in dreams to the chink of his pence,
This huckster put down war!

Is this the language of him who wrote that the wise in heart,

"Would love the gleams of good that broke
From either side—nor veil his eyes?"

Assuredly not. Criticized from premises which I have shown to be mistaken, the hero of "Maud," as a lover, must be considered egotistical, undignified, frantic if not hysterical; as an observer of social and national matters, he can only be regarded as a ridiculous doctrinaire: and the poem as a whole would perforce be condemned. But when we look at it from a proper stand-

point, when we remember what manner of man the speaker is when we remember, not only that Maud is a study in morbid passion at which we must not look for the same excellences we expect in say, *The Idylls of the King*, but that the study is cast in dramatic mould—then do we see how perfectly the poet has done his work—how wonderfully he has assumed the hypochondriac's mind, caught his spirit, acquired his sentiments, mastered his thoughts, and gave them becoming expression. Looked at thus, Maud is a creation worthy every praise, against which the successive waves of criticism, whether of form or substance, beat in vain. In this light, therefore, Maud indisputably is the most artistic, the most carefully wrought of all Tennyson's poems; but is it, therefore, the greatest? Far from it. The poet is there dealing with an unnatural state of mind; his hero is always melancholy, sometimes insane, and his work can of necessity have little interest and but an imperfect message for us who strive to banish loathed melancholy and are sane. I know that the early dramatists and song-writers took a morbid pleasure in this subject of insanity. I know that the wholesome mind of Shakespeare did not decline it for a theme; but I nevertheless think it clear that poetry which has insanity as its principal object of illustration is not of the highest. Matthew Arnold reminding an old truth, has said in his large way that "Poetry is at bottom a criticism of life; the greatness of a poet lies in his powerful and beautiful application of ideas to life, to the question how to live." From the ravings—musings, if ravings seem too strong a word—of one whose mind by feeding upon itself has become diseased and foul, whose reason is prisoner to unhealthy thought, I take it we gather no or few truths to aid us in that great concern how to live. "Maud" consequently fails to satisfy Mathew Arnold's requirements, and to the extent of its shortcoming must be a failure,—a splendid failure perhaps—but still a failure. I do not go so far as to say that the subject of insanity is unfit for art; art claims for her own every subject she can illumine; but what I do say is that when she deals with that accident of life, she becomes in a sense caviare to the general, and partially loses her claim to be the guide of humanity.

G. P.

PRESENTATION OF THE FOOTBALL TROPHY.—On Friday, the 18th of Jan the football trophies—senior and junior—were presented to the winning teams. The presentation was made by his Honor, Gov. Daly. On the platform were Mr. J. F. P. Knight, Mr. Norwood Duffus, Mr. G. Troop, Dr. Forrest and others. Mr. Robert McIlreith received the trophy on behalf of the D. A. A. C. Speeches were made by Gov. Daly, who expressed his pleasure at being present. Mr. Knight, in a humorous manner, said that he was glad that Dalhousie had won the Trophy, but that the Wanderers would make a hard fight for it next year. The meeting broke up with cheers for the Wanderers, Crescents, and for old Dalhousie.

College Societies.

PHILOMATHIC SOCIETY.—The first meeting of the Philomatic Society for this part of the session was held on Thursday Jany. 17th. The attendance was large, the papers good, and the Society seemed no worse for the vacation. The subject for discussion at this meeting was "Ideal Republics." In all ages of the world, social and political grievances have been felt, and various means have been suggested by thinking men as a remedy for this condition of affairs. Theories have been advanced which would remedy all grievances. One of the earliest, and at the same time most important of these ideal states was that of Plato, described in his "Republic." This state was the subject of a paper by Mr. G. A. Sutherland, who in brief space, indicated the nature of Plato's state and the condition of things which he proposed to introduce. At the beginning of what may be called the period of modern thought and literature, appeared "Utopia" by Sir Thomas More. This work was briefly but ably reviewed by Mr. J. S. Layton who gave not only a very clear idea of "Utopia" itself, but also indicated the points of agreement and difference between it and the "Republic." Of more recent date and fuller of modern ideas, is the ideal state of Edward Bellamy, portrayed in "Looking Backward," which was described by Mr. J. H. Trefry. Mr. Trefry's treatment of his subject was not only instructive but exceedingly interesting, and was listened to with pleasure by all present, as indeed, were the others as well. As usual the papers and the theories they treated were the subjects of interesting discussions. The writers of the papers were highly complimented on their treatment of their subjects and the different theories were commented upon. The presence of Dr. MacMechan added, as it always does, to the interest of what all felt was a very successful meeting.

Exchanges.

THE *Presbyterian College Journal* has the reputation of providing its subscribers with good wholesome reading. Its articles are all well and carefully written and contain much food for thought. The contents are sufficiently varied to prevent any dulness. The "College Note Book" is a very readable and enjoyable column.

Knox College Monthly for January, contains the concluding part of Dr. MacMechan's article on "An Elizabethan Parson's account of Shakespeare's England." This amply fulfils the promise of the preceding part. As we read, the Elizabethans become to us more than a name. "The fact is borne in upon us

that this age, which seems so shadowy and colorless, was peopled by live men and women of like passions with ourselves." One lays aside the paper with the determination of gaining a closer acquaintance with the "Elizabethan Parson" at the earliest possible moment.

Among the Colleges.

ETON COLLEGE was founded in 1441 by Henry VI.

THE senior class at Harvard has voted to wear the cap and gown.

THERE is one instructor for every six students at Chicago University.

THE University of Michigan is the first to enrol Chinese women as students.

IN a recent debate between representatives of Harvard and Yale, the former won.

ELEVEN of Harvard's prominent athletes were among those who received honors at commencement.

THE library of Dartmouth College has been added to, during the past year, to the extent of 3709 volumes.

YALE UNIVERSITY shews an increase of students in attendance. This year there will be about 2500 against 2203 last year.

TRINITY UNIVERSITY, Toronto, has been enlarged by the addition of another wing and by the erection of a fine gymnasium.

THE largest salary of any college professor in the world is said to be that of Professor Lumer of Edinburgh, who receives \$20,000.

THE University of Michigan sends out a class of 731 this year, the largest ever graduated from any American College.

TROUBLE between the Faculty and students exists in Toronto University. Even the life of the *Varsity* has been threatened.

THE following named Universities publish daily papers:—Cornell, Brown, Harvard, Leland Stanford, and the Universities of Michigan and Wisconsin.

ACCORDING to Ascherson's *Universitäts-Kalendar*, 28,418 matriculated students were pursuing their studies in the twenty universities of the German Empire, the Academy at Münster, and the Lyceum Hosianum at Braunsberg, during the summer semester of 1894. Of these 8,684 were studying medicine, 7,776 allaw, cameristics and forestry, 3,336 Protestant theology, 1,469 Catholic theology, while the remaining 6,153 belonged to the philosophical department. As regards numbers, Berlin ranked first, with 4,625; Munich second, with 3,744 and Leipsic third, with 2,764. Then followed Bonn (1,634), Halle (1,528), Freiburg (1,477), Würzburg (1,292), Breslau (1,280), Tübingen (1,210), Heidelberg (1,206), Strassburg (913), Marburg (866), Greifswald (824), Erlangen (792), Göttingen (786), Königsberg (712), Jena (674), Kiel (610), Giessen (576), Rostock (436), Münster (426), and Braunsberg (43). We may add that the two institutions last mentioned can hardly be called universities, inasmuch as they have each only two faculties: Catholic theology and philosophy.—*New York Evening Post*.

Dallusiensia.

[In future this column shall not be restricted as heretofore, but shall contain items respecting such happenings in and around College as may be interesting to the students generally.—EDS.]

THE Students rejoice to see Dr. Lawson again attending to his duties after his short, but severe illness.

AN invitation has been extended by the students of the University of New Brunswick to the students of Dalhousie for an "At Home" to be held on Thursday evening, Feb. 7th.

FRESHIE M-RR-S-N, W. A., (holding up a peanut and addressing a young lady to whom he has been introduced a few minutes before). "What do you call this Fan?"

McN—*Il alias Supto*, (at party, who has already partaken of five ice creams, three salads, four plates of cake, eight cups of coffee, and the like number of cocoa.) When will supper begin?

Lion: Never, for the other guests, if you do not stop.

Subscribers should bear in mind that all subscriptions are now due, and would greatly oblige by a prompt remittance.

MR. F-ST-R, with sentimental look, is patiently and earnestly scrutinizing a young lady's appearance. His eyes dwell with manifest delight on the various details until he hears himself addressed by the Young Lady.—"Mr. F—, How do you like my frock?"

THE students of the senior class received an invitation from the senior class of Mount Allison University, Sackville, to be present at an "At Home" held there on the evening of Friday, Feb. 8th. They highly appreciated the kindness of their New Brunswick cousins in extending this invitation to them, and regretted their inability to be present.

OUR Editor-in-Chief was surprised one night by an attempt made to get into his room through the window. Such conduct is very unusual at the home of the theologians. So his first thought was of *robbers*. But just as he was about to attack the intruders, he was surprised by the voice, "Say, can't you go down and open the door." All became clear when he remembered that this was Missionary night. But take care to have a key next time, Robb.

THE Lectures on Education briefly referred to in our last issue have, so far, proved successful beyond the expectation of the most sanguine promoter, and are attracting large audiences. The opening lecture, delivered by Prof. Macdonald, on "Methods of Teaching Mathematics," was exceedingly interesting and characteristic of Dalhousie's popular mathematician. This usually dry subject was enlivened by an abundance of that quaint humor of which Prof. Macdonald has such a store. In the opinion of the lecturer there was no *method* of teaching, as everything depended on the *man*. Besides being highly entertaining, the lecture was both instructive and edifying. History was the next subject on the course and in two masterly lectures, Dr. Forrest exposed the pernicious system now in vogue, and dwelt at length on ways and means of improving the present methods. The main facts and general results should have first importance, and matters of detail be practically disregarded. Dr. Forrest's addresses were heard with great attention by the numerous teachers present and should have a wholesome effect in remedying many of the existing evils in teaching. From such an auspicious beginning the success of this Lecture Course seems assured.

Scene: Library. Two Freshies reading last GAZETTE.

1st Freshie.—How do you like this 'ere GAZETTE?

2nd Freshie.—Dun kno. I was reading that there piece 'bout the Valedictories an' it made me mad.

1st F.—What is a Valedictory?

2nd F.—Well, why! don't you know what it is? It is-it is-it is-a-a-a thing they have in the spring time.

1st F.—Yes, I understand, but what do they have four of 'em for?

2nd F.—Well, you see, the Seniors they have one, and the Juniors they have one, and them Sophs they have one, and we ought to have one but that there faculty wants to take it from us. *But I tell you they dare not.*

1st F.—No siree. We'll not put up with that. Let's call a meeting of our class and show the faculty who is boss in this College.

HOCKEY MATCH.—The first match of the season was played with the Wanderers at the Exhibition rink on Friday, Jan 25th. Our team was made up as follows:

Goal.—C. S. McLean.

Point.—W. Pickering.

Cover Point.—J. C. Murray.

Forward.—R. H. Murray, N. G. Murray, Percy King, John Mont.

The game was a good one, and though victory was not ours, yet our boys have no need to be ashamed of their defeat. The Wanderers were on the puck the whole time and scored twice in the first half. In the second half our men played a better game and Pickering by a beautiful dash scored for the College. No other points were scored and the game closed 2—1 in favor of the Wanderers. It must be added, however, that our team had never practised together, and when they again meet "our old rivals" will give a better account of themselves. Arrangements are being made for games with St. John and Acadia.

IN Feb. 1894, the second year English class presented the comic scenes of "A Mid-summer Nights' Dream" at the Ladies College with great success. The expenses were so high that it was decided to repeat it this year at the Orpheus Hall, with several new scenes added. Tuesday, Jan. 22nd, was the day arranged for the performance, but a worse day as far as the weather was concerned could not have been chosen. The rain simply poured and the walking was very dangerous. Notwithstanding the weather, there was a very good house, his Hon. Gov. Daly and General Montgomery Moore being present. The scene in which Titania (Miss Amy Hill) calls in her fairies was very pretty and called forth much applause. Mr. A. Massie Hill as Snout the Tinker and Mr. J. Carey Murray as Bottom, filled their parts well. Bottom's death, in particular, being very effective. Miss Winnie Burns as Thisbe, did splendidly and shewed not a little dramatic talent. The proceeds are devoted to the library. Dr. MacMechan deserves the thanks of all the students for the trouble he has taken in this connection, and it is largely owing to his efforts that the library is increasing as it is.

New Books.

THE ORATIONS OF CICERO AGAINST CATILINA. Edited after Karl Halm, by A. S. Wilkins, Litt. D., LL. D., Professor of Latin in Owen's College, Manchester. MacMillan & Co., London and New York 1894.

The name of Wilkins is now become sufficient guarantee to the thoroughness of any editing undertaken by him, and he has done a great deal. Nothing necessary to the right understanding of the speeches has been omitted in the notes, while the introduction gives a clear and exhaustive resumé of the history of the insurrection, and of Cicero's great effort in its defeat.

THE AENEID OF VIRGIL: BOOKS I—VI Edited, with introduction and notes, by T. E. Page, M. A., Assistant Master at Charterhouse. MacMillan & Co., London and New York. 1894.

We have previously noticed in this column the good work done by Mr. Page in editing the Aeneid in separate books for the "Elementary Classics." Here we have the first six books in one volume, with the notes just as in the smaller editions, and the vocabularies omitted. The commentary is very interesting, and shirks no difficulties. Page's notes are the best aid to an intelligent appreciation of Virgil that we have seen in any school edition.

ELEMENTARY CLASSICS. SALLUST: JURGURTHINE WAR. Edited, with Introduction, Notes, and Vocabulary, by Edward P. Coleridge, B. A., Niel College, Oxford. London: MacMillan & Co. 1894.

This is an abridgement of Sallust's History. It begins with Chap. V., the introductory matter being omitted. In the body of the work irrelevant episodes and the formal speeches of the leaders have been also struck out. This brings the history down to a length which allows of its being included in this series. The introduction gives the piece its proper setting. The notes give no more than what all would consider legitimate aid to the beginner in Sallust. Older students of course will not take kindly to any curtailment of their author; but for the younger student who wishes to get the story stripped of all the digressions (which the invention of foot-notes and appendices has rendered unnecessary to modern historians) we doubt not the book will be well fitted.

SELECTIONS ILLUSTRATIVE OF GREEK LIFE, FROM THE MINOR WORKS OF XENOPHON. Adapted for the Use of Beginners, with Vocabulary, Notes and Exercises, by Charles Haines Keene, M. A. MacMillan & Co., London and New York. 1894.

The works from which these extracts are taken are the *Hiero*, the *Cynegeticus*, and the *Oeconomicus*. The extracts are very interesting, and might be used very advantageously by teachers as pieces for "at sight" translation. The extracts from the *Cynegeticus* would be of living interest and not too difficult for boys who had finished their first Greek book. The extracts are accompanied with notes and vocabularies.

LATIN PHRASE BOOK, by C. Meissner. Translated from the Sixth German Edition, with the addition of Supplementary Phrases and References, by H. W. Andeu, M. A., Assistant Master at Feltes College, Edinburgh. MacMillan & Co. 1894.

The fact that *Meissner's Phraseologie* supplied a real want in the writing of Latin composition, is shown by the fact that a French translation (now in its third edition), and one in Italian, preceded the appearance of the book in English. The excellent arrangement of the matter, and an exhaustive index, makes it a valuable supplement to an English-Latin dictionary to a student who thinks it worth time and pains to secure something like Latinity in his class exercises. As the translator remarks, a phrase book should always be compiled by the student himself from his own reading. Such a collection of phrases, however, must be very meagre from the limited time which, even in the old country, and much more with us, a widening curriculum allows for the study of Latin. The classical student will find this a very valuable book of reference, when puzzled by the difference between Latin and English idioms.

ANOTHER number has been added to "MacMillan's Classical Series"—Cicero's oration "PRO MURENA" T. H. Freese, M. A., of St. John's College, Cambridge, is the editor.

Personals.

MR. R. H. GRAHAM, B. A. '92, has the best wishes of the GAZETTE in his candidature for Alderman in the thriving little city of New Glasgow.

MR. E. H. ARMSTRONG has our congratulations on his appointment as Deputy United States Consul at Yarmouth.

THANKS are due to Messrs. T. J. Stewart, Sydney; George Patterson, New Glasgow, and E. H. Armstrong, Yarmouth, for a prompt response to our request for missing numbers of the GAZETTE.

DALHOUSIANS heartily concur in the appointment of Mr. A. F. TRUEMAN, M. A., to the office of Judge of Probate for St. John. Mr. Trueman is president of our New Brunswick Alumni Association, and has ever been a staunch friend of the College. The GAZETTE extends its heartiest congratulations.

Law Department.

VALEDICTORIES.

JUST now there seems to be a stir regarding a reformation on the matter of Valedictories, put into the minds of some of the leading spirits, by the supposed sentiments of the Faculty or Senate. What is the matter, or who wants a change does not appear; but by some semi-official communication, one of the before mentioned august assemblies represents to the lesser powers that they have a *desire* or a *grievance* or a something, we know not what. Nothing definite, as we understand, has been revealed to any person on the matter, but some of the students in the Arts have taken it upon themselves to start an agitation. The proposal seems to be to change the time honored custom and introduce an innovation in this matter. Why should there be any change? Surely the present class in Arts, Medicine, or Law do not feel that they have not members of their respective classes perfectly competent to discharge the duties of valedictorian. Certainly they have not lost that old time respect for the members of the Faculty, and love and gratitude for their toiling and anxious thoughts on our behalf that they wish to forego the pleasurable duty of expressing our earnest thanks to them on the only public occasion that is within our reach. I need not ask if the class spirit is so low that we do not wish a public farewell to our class mates; or is our appreciation of the

kindnesses of Halifax citizens so slight that our good manners do not prompt us to express that appreciation?

Why then do we wish a change? The only fault we have heard expressed in regard to past valedictorians is, they have been too long and tedious; and if this criticism is true it is the fault of the valedictorians individually and not of the custom. Then can we as members of the classes of '95 abolish altogether, which is the first remedy proposed by our demagogues, this universal University privilege? If we can, and pass off the stage of student life, socially, owing the debts we do without any acknowledgment of the bounties received, we are too ungrateful for recognition, and the more speedily we sink into oblivion the better.

But the second method of reform proposed is to have ONE valedictorian for the whole University. This sounds well if it were practicable. What, however, do the students in Arts know of the joys and sorrows of a Medical or Law man? What expression would there be in the farewells and good wishes expressed to a class of Arts students by a member of the Law class unknown to any even by reputation? It would be as appropriate to import a professional valedictorian from across the sea. When the time to choose came the grand difficulty would present itself, for the largest class (Arts) would always rule and jealousies would be engendered at present unknown within our walls. This, then, is impracticable.

Let the good old custom therefore continue, and if you wish to save time limit the orators to seven or ten minutes each, but never give up the good old usage of speaking the "Adieu" and "God speed" which in many, many cases are *forever*.

LAW REFORM.

WE were greatly in hopes that the present session of the Provincial Parliament would be signalized by some worthy effort towards the simplification and improvement of our statute law. The want of a revision of the statutes has been almost universally expressed through the newspapers and otherwise, and we are not aware that there is any considerable body of opinion anywhere adverse to the project. Nothing, however, of this kind is proposed beyond a consolidation of a few of the more important of the statutes. Which of these are to undergo the process is not yet definitely known. As to

all that do not come within the range of the consolidator's efforts, we are still to be left to push our way through ten or eleven volumes of annual amendments, with the chance, as usual, of overlooking, as the Legislature itself frequently does, some or other of the numerous amendments.

But apart from the necessity of revision, there is an urgent call for amendment of several of our most important chapters. The Probate Act has been pronounced by competent critics cumbersome, old-fashioned, and in many respects unworkable. The Married Woman's Property Act has been severely criticized, and does indeed seem to call for serious amendment. Its provisions are gathered from a great variety of sources, and it would be nothing short of a legislative miracle if success had been achieved in the effort to fuse them into a logical and consistent whole. There are sundry old-fashioned enactments about bills and notes which have never been repealed by the proper authority, and yet are given the go-by in all the extant collections of statutes, both Provincial and Dominion, although they still continue to be the law of the Province. The Factor's and Brokers Acts, after passing through a variety of vicissitudes, are at present somewhere in the vicinity of Mahomet's coffin. These should be consolidated, amended, resuscitated, rehabilitated, or something or other, so that it would be possible for us to understand whether they are law or whether they are not law, and what they are all about anyhow. At present they are a mystery and a nuisance. Nobody seems to reckon with them any more than with the law of the Twelve Tables, yet it may be that they are in force, as it was evidently supposed by the last Provincial revisors that they were, and if they are there must be a number of interesting law-suits lying around loose for some industrious and ingenious practitioner to pick up. Then there is the law of sales. The codifying genius of Judge Chalmers, and the energy of the legal department in the British Government have combined to bring the law relating to sales into as good a condition as that of bills and notes. With a little modification this act could be well introduced into the Provincial Parliament. The whole of it, without exception, is within the legislative competence of the Province, and it might as well be passed here as not. It would be a great boon to the general public, and to the practitioners especially, if this step were taken. It would make our text-books far more easy to read and much more reliable as guides than they can possibly be in view of the existing differences in our statute law. The Dominion Parliament has brought our bills and notes law into conformity with that of the old country, except in so far as they have improved upon the English act. Why should not the Local Legislature do a little of this sort of thing in respect to the subjects that come within its authority? We have been patiently waiting from

year to year for something of this kind that could so easily be done, and which would so materially lighten the labors of students, professors, practitioners, and everybody concerned or involved in the administration of the law. We have waited, alas, in vain. In the historic words of the late Mr. Justice DesBarres, "Will nobody begin?"

LAW SCHOOL FACETIE.

WHY did L-G-E answer the young lady's name so knowingly at roll-call?

OWING to draughts in the house Ver-n has shifted his quarters. Ait-n and Ch-ie learning of this are contemplating moving there to consume the draughts.

THE lecturer was evidently inaccurate when he stated that Dizzy remarked of Gladstone's sentences, that they were as long and involved as Mac's hair, for Dizzy was dead long before Mac gave up using a comb.

MED. Freshie to Law Freshie :—"Which would you sooner be : blind, deaf, or dumb?"

L. F.—"I'd sooner get paralyzed."

V-R-N and R-S want to know whether they will have to take their exams by a next friend under the Judicature Act. Do the special provisions for infants and lunatics extend to exams.?

MCRÆ (Arts) and our F-n-s-n have been distinguishing themselves in CAPE BRETON on the liquor question, but on different sides. Presumably this was the reason of F--N's late arrival after Xmas holidays.

YOUNG lady to R. F. P.—"You may be highly in accord with what is considered quite proper in Cape Breton, but you must remember that it is considered very bad form to sing 'Ta, Ra, Ra, Boom De Ay' publicly, while escorting a young lady to the ferry, in this city."

THE Bubb Comedy Co. has an attraction for Gu-n. It is the cheapness of admission. He has been found, attended by a young lady on two occasions, occupying two seats in the rear of the balcony, price 20 cents each; total outlay, 80 cents. He has never been known to have been guilty of such extravagance before.

HE who laughs last laughs longest. Prof. :—The actions of the N. B. legislature on this point were different and much better than those of N. S. (Proud smiles from GEO- and LOGGIE.) Prof. :—Like John's disciples they didn't know that such a thing existed. (Collapse of N. B. students; loud applause from Nova Scotians).

OWING to its exposure on the wild shores of Dartmouth, McK's B. A. has become somewhat illegible and he has consequently lost his usual self-complacency which arose from his nightly perusals of it. To remedy this he has invested in a pair of specks, which he intends to use not only in deciphering the above-mentioned instrument but also in watching for any material improvement in Bob's stach.

AMONG the applicants who submitted their nether lips to examination, and whose names and points were inadvertently omitted, were the following :—Ferguson, 53. 'Stach itself partakes of the wild nature of the wearer, the individual hairs being too straight. Phalen, .09. 'Stach consumptive. Advise calling in a physician or his daughter so that the proper nourishment may be given it in its abnormally long infancy.

MCK-Z-E, who for the past few weeks has been conducting himself fairly well, has again begun to tread the broad road of iniquity. The other morning he came into the library with his self-complacent air and seated himself at a table. But Ph-n's eagle eye soon espied a long hair lying on Mac's broad shoulder, a hair which from actual measurement was found to be 4 feet 3 3/4 inches long. Bob endeavored to find out whether it was numbered or not, but was unable to do so.

DALHOUSIE'S Deputation To The Ottawa Carnival, (Under the distinguished patronage of Baron Nicotine.)

Name.	Costume.
The Baron.	Wholesale consumer of Black Jack, (borrowed preferred).
B ns-d.	Arranger of examination results and leader in Torts.
{ McK-n-n (J. L.)	} Statesmen.
{ O'D'-n-gh-e (D--K.)	
Mc-C-t	Law Library.
{ L-g-e.	} L-g-e, Grand temperance lecturer; S-t behind, carrying valise with L-g-e's brown jug, and ready to show the audience the Scott act, and dragging along S.—W. as the terrible example.
{ S-t.	
F-nl-s-n	Constant visitor to the merry-go-round.
F-r.	Chaplain-general to the Flat-foots.
G-t (D. K.)	Right to plug acquired by prescription.
K-g.	Producer of long names and short mustaches.
H-d.	The Lover at Hymen's shrine.
S-y-r.	Ladies' man, (will he no' come back again).
W-d.	Wholesale consumer of midnight oil.
McK-z-e.	Agent for hair mattresses.

PERSONALS.

H. H. WICKWIRE, LL. B., M. P. P., is in town attending to his parliamentary business.

R. H. GRAHAM, LL. B., '94 has been elected a councillor in the enterprising town of New Glasgow. We expect New Glasgow to go ahead fast now.

A. B. COPP, LL. B., '94, has been admitted to the N. B. bar, and is practising at Sackville. Copp was one of the editors of the GAZETTE last year; and we hope that he has not severed his connection, and that he will grace its columns occasionally with a letter from his pen.

THE following from one of the N. B. papers speaks for itself. "A deserved compliment. When Mr. R. B. Bennett had concluded his two hours' argument in the case of Donovan vs. Snowball the other day, before the Supreme Court, acting Chief Justice Tuck took occasion to compliment him very highly, and among other things, said that the manner in which he had presented the case, in its thoroughness, and the knowledge displayed in the subject, coming from a young man who had so recently been made a barrister, reflected credit upon himself and the profession to which he belonged." Bennett is a graduate of '93, and we always said he would be a credit to the Law School.

Ten numbers of the GAZETTE are issued every Winter by the students of Dalhousie College and University.

TERMS.

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Medical Department.

WE are anxiously awaiting the day when that august assembly, the General Students' meeting, shall decide whether the Meds. are to have their representation on the editorial staff of the GAZETTE increased or not. Under the present arrangement the responsibility and labor of furnishing material for the Medical Department are very unfairly divided, by not being divided at all. This work could be done much better, and far more to the satisfaction of the students themselves, if at least three of their number were associated in it. It is perhaps not surprising that the majority of the medical students take so little interest in the GAZETTE, seeing that this department of the University is so poorly represented on the editorial staff, and on the pages of the journal itself; but the remedy is in their own hands, they can make the GAZETTE both interesting and profitable to themselves, by securing the appointment of at least two more editors, and also by contributing to the columns of the paper. The contributions of students are always of more interest to the majority of the readers of the GAZETTE than the lengthy productions of practitioners—often too technical in their nature to interest a Freshman or even a Sophomore, and Freshmen always form the majority of the Halifax Medical College.

There should be no difficulty in securing the right to appoint three of the editorial staff from among the Medical Students, as there is no question about their being entitled to it. With this accomplished and a more general interest on the part of a larger number of the students a marked improvement should be seen in the Medical Department of the GAZETTE.

MUSCULAR DEGENERATION.

READ BEFORE STUDENTS' MEDICAL SOCIETY, BY DR. M. A. CURRY.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen:—It is not an easy matter to pick out a subject for a paper to be read before your Society, that will be equally interesting to primary and final students. The subject I have chosen to-night is a very important one, and one that does not require any great amount of medical knowledge to understand: "Why is each generation wiser and weaker."

That this old aphorism is true is too apparent to all of us to admit of discussion. Well, why is this? In the first place, it is easy for us to understand, with the advance of science and the improved facilities for acquiring knowledge, why each generation should be wiser. This is what we naturally expect, because each generation profits by the experience and investigations of the preceding. This is obvious. But the question that needs enquiring into is, "Why is each generation weaker?" What is the cause of this "muscular" or "physical" debility, as it may be termed? Now this is a practical question, which concerns not only ourselves, but also our children, and certainly merits more of our attention than is generally given to it.

At the present day, in our College Course, we hear so much about germs and bacilli that generate disease, about the most obscure diseases of the body, and maladies which may be relieved or removed by the knife, that ordinary conditions quite as important in generating disease, if not more so, and of every-day occurrence, are thrown into the back-ground of medical teaching and literature. For example, medical professors feel it their duty, and take great pains to explain most carefully, the pathology of the most obscure diseases, which perhaps you will never meet with in your whole practice,—and yet, common ailments, which you will be called upon to treat every day, the result of muscular inactivity, are never touched upon. I have chosen this subject to-night because it is a practical every-day subject, resulting from the routine of every-day life, and is remediable.

Now I don't intend to go into the full discussion of this subject—the time at my disposal would not permit of that—but I shall try to point out some of the more apparent causes of our physical debility, which is certainly on the increase; and also some of the conditions resulting from these, which constitute the common ailments of to-day. There can be no doubt that a most important cause of the physical debility or muscular weakness of the present age results from the fact that muscular strength to-day is not of such cardinal importance as it was in former generations. Before the introduction of the various labor-saving machines, manual labor and main strength were matters of the first importance. Strength was the great recommendation, and the strong man was sought after. The great aim of parents then, was to rear their children to be strong and vigorous, muscular and hardy, so that they might stand hard work, or excel in athletic sports.

It has always been, in the English schools, part of a boy's education that he play cricket, foot-ball and other out-door sports, by which his physical development should keep pace with his mental. This is as it should be, and I am glad to see this system is meeting with encouragement in the schools and

colleges of our own country. The great aim in the past was muscular strength and physical development. Now what about to-day? To-day we find scholastic education, or office-life, the great aim of all. Even the poorest aspire to find an easier way of getting a living than by muscular toil. And no one blames them for this—it is rather commendable; but it has its consequences, namely, that robust physique and bodily strength are no longer of the first importance. The great desideratum of the ambitious young man to-day is to acquire knowledge or wealth, and all his energies are centred on this object. What is the result in many cases? That these young men study or work indoors the greater part of the twenty-four hours. They have no time for out-door exercise or muscular development. They really don't think it is necessary, perhaps would regard it as so much time wasted. Well, as a consequence of this, we find that the muscles, due to non-use, atrophy instead of being developed, producing a condition of muscular weakness or physical debility. In our colleges, this condition of things is made necessary, in great measure, by our young men trying to make their college course as short as possible; while college faculties, on the other hand, are adding every year to the curriculum, making the college course harder. The result is, young men and women are being graduated from our colleges every year with a very superior education and well-trained mind, it is true, but broken down in health, pale, anæmic, weak and dyspeptic, only requiring an east wind to develop consumption in them. In other words, they are physically unfit to put into practice the knowledge they have acquired. They can grapple with most difficult problems in mathematics, but they can't digest a piece of bread and butter. These furnish us with illustrations of a sound mind in a weak body, instead of the ideal to be aimed at, "A sound mind in a sound body."

How often does it happen that a strong, healthy young man from the country, ambitious to succeed in his studies, devotes his whole time to his books, regardless of his physical condition, and perhaps graduates at the head of his class; but in a year or so has to go South for the benefit of his health—perhaps never comes back. This is not an exaggerated case. I can call to mind half a dozen cases. What is the good of a system of education that produces these results?

But this condition is not confined to students. It is found in a goodly number of the young professional and business men of to-day. Enquire into their life and we find, perhaps, that instead of walking they ride to and from their place of business, where they sit all day in a close office, exercising their brain but not their muscles. In both instances we have little or no out-door exercise, by which the muscles, and indeed the whole organism, are kept in a healthy condition. It is one of the first laws in physiology that if an organ is to be kept in a

healthy condition, it must perform its function. In other words, it must be exercised. If not allowed to perform its function, it will atrophy. This applies particularly to the muscular system, and accounts in great measure for the muscular debility of the present generation.

Another thing that we must not lose sight of in discussing the causes of muscular weakness in succeeding generations is this: Men and women of the type I have just described, with weak physique, become fathers and mothers; and what must be the physical condition of their children? Weak, necessarily, because they inherit the debilitated constitution of their parents. It is a duty we owe to our children and to succeeding generations, that we overcome physical debility in ourselves. The farmer, the lumberman and the laborer point with pride to their children, with good appetites, rosy cheeks, healthy bodies, and who have never required the services of a doctor, when they contrast them with the pale, weak-looking children of the business and professional men of our cities, who are constantly in the doctor's hands. This difference is due in great measure to the difference in the habits of life of the parents. The farmer and the laborer by their out-door life of muscular activity, have developed a robust physique, which is transmitted to their children. The business and professional man, on the other hand, by their indoor life of muscular inactivity, have allowed their muscles to atrophy and become weak, a condition of physical debility which is transmitted to their children.

This condition of things must be clear to every man of judgment and reflection, and it should be remedied. By what means? By our students, professional and business men giving less time to their study and work, and more to their physical development. Let the men whose business necessitates an in-door sedentary life, make it an important part of their daily routine to spend an hour or two in the open air, breathing in the pure oxygen of heaven, as necessary to health; and engage in some form of exercise by which their bodies may be strengthened, so that they will be better able to fight disease and death, the great enemies of life; and at the same time transmit to their children a good healthy constitution.

So far as effectual study goes, there can be no doubt that that student works most effectually who has regular times for relieving his mental strings, and for promoting his physical welfare by exercise and healthful recreation. These blow away the cobwebs from his brain, and stimulate all his organs in the performance of their functions; assisting his excreting organs in getting rid of waste products, and making his circulation more active, by which his brain is supplied with good fresh oxygenated blood (the best brain food), and as a consequence the nerve-cells of his brain, restored by the mental rest, by the removal of excretion, and by the oxygen supplied, are better

capable of retaining what he reads. But not only so, out-door exercise and recreation promote health and a feeling of well-being, so that a man feels like working. He does not work, as it were, under protest. I predict health and strength for the members of the Dalhousie foot-ball team, who have so nobly and manfully won the trophy for two successive years; and more than that, I hold they have been able to study to better effect for the time they have given to this healthful sport.

Just here, let me call your attention to some of the most important advantages of out-door life and exercise. In the first place, an abundance of oxygen is supplied to the organism; and I need hardly tell you this is very essential to the interchanges that are constantly going on in all the tissues of our bodies. The food we eat is digested, assimilated and converted into the various tissues of the body by means of oxygen. Without oxygen it is not converted into tissue, but is expelled in waste. For example, you would not put coal into your stove and shut up all the drafts, by which the oxygen would be kept out, and expect heat to be produced. Your coal would not burn, and consequently would not be converted into heat and ashes. So it is with the food we eat, if the oxygen is not supplied by which it is converted into heat and tissue, it does no good. Oxygen, then, is absolutely necessary for the nourishment of our tissues.

By means of oxygen, too, we get rid of waste products. In order for a fire to burn well, the ashes must be removed; so in order for our tissues to be in good condition, the waste products must be removed. It is by means of oxygen inhaled that we get rid of carbonic acid gas from our lungs; phosphates from the brain and nervous system; and wear from the muscles and other tissues. Examine the urine of a man who has had a brisk walk in the open air, or a game of cricket or tennis, and we find it loaded with waste products, which simply means that the out-door life has enabled him to get rid of a lot of waste products. A man who lives for the most part in-doors, where he cannot get pure oxygen, is just like a fire in a stove where the drafts are shut, and the ashes are allowed to accumulate. The interchange in his tissues take place very slowly; the tissues are not added to, and the waste products are not removed, and consequently they cannot be in a healthy condition. This in itself is enough to produce physical debility.

But besides fresh air, muscular exercise is essential to our well-being. To show the importance of our muscles, I will just remind you that half of the human body by weight is made up of the skeletal muscles, and they contain a quarter of the blood in the body, and it is through their activity that a large portion of the potential energy of the body is turned into work and heat.

Now just look at the effects of exercise on a muscle. Immediately a muscle contracts or is exercised, the blood-stream

passing through it becomes changed, both in quality and quantity. The arterial twigs which ramify in it dilate, by which more blood and lymph pass into the substance of the muscle and its tissues are reconstructed. At the same time the venous twigs dilate and more blood passes out of the muscle. But there is also found to be a change in its quality. The blood entering the muscle is bright red, rich in oxygen and the elements that build up the fibres; that coming away is dark blue color, containing carbonic acid gas, urea, and other waste products, the result of the chemical changes that have gone on in the tissues of the muscles. Here restoration is brought about, firstly, by the supply of food material and oxygen, and, secondly, by the clearing out of waste products. These are the main conditions by which any tissue is kept normal or healthy, viz., a full supply of proper food and oxygen, on the one hand; unimpeded and sufficient drainage on the other. And these conditions are brought about by out-door exercise, which is one of the chief agents in promoting wholesome tissue-changes in all the organs of the body.

Now in contrast to this, just look at the life of the ordinary business or professional man of to-day. Coming from the country, perhaps, where all his surroundings were healthful, to the city; his one idea is to succeed, and all his energies are bent to this end. A close office or shop; long and arduous hours of labor in an impure atmosphere; meals snatched hastily, and sleep curtailed to a minimum; his brain constantly on the stretch. Here we have present everything that promotes muscular debility and ill-health; and everything that prevents muscular debility and promotes health is wanting, viz., fresh air, muscular exercise, and mental relaxation. This is the life of thousands at the present day. Well, what is the result? A few, with excellent constitutions, may escape without much apparent harm to their health, but the evil effects will be seen in their off-spring. But the great majority are less fortunate in escaping themselves. The constant demand on their nervous system, which is poorly supplied with oxygen and food, leads to its exhaustion, and to the condition known as neurasthenia or nervous debility. Mental and bodily lethargy is the penalty for such a life. Like the reckless spendthrift, who uses up his capital as well as his interest, and soon has neither to draw from; so the spendthrift of his energies—and these are a man's physical capital—soon exhausts his reserve, and has to pay for his excesses. His nerves are shaken and worn out from over-work and poor nourishment; his muscles, from non-use, wasted and flabby. In other words, he has squandered his bodily strength and is a wreck.

I am sure you have all seen such a man. Thin, pale, with a worn, haggard look and clammy hand, gait slow and deliberate, and disinclined for society; he haunts the doctor's office, perhaps

goes from one doctor to another, and takes all sorts of patent medicines, without much benefit. These patients reflect very little credit on the doctor, for he can't supply them with nervous energy, they having used up their whole store. Due to this nervous exhaustion, these patients suffer chiefly from mental and bodily lethargy and insomnia, which may end in despondency and suicide. This accounts for the number of millionaires in our large cities, who, every year, think life is not worth living and end it by their own hands. Fortunately this last stage is rarely seen, because slighter ailments indicate the cause, which is relieved before this stage is reached.

Let us look at these. Very common results of an in-door life of muscular inactivity are dyspepsia and constipation. Just look at the anatomy of the stomach and intestines. As you know, the walls of the stomach and intestines are bountifully supplied with muscular fibres, whose function it is to send the food down. Now these fibres participate in the general muscular debility, and consequently perform their functions badly. I need hardly tell you that the function of the stomach, when the food is taken into it, is to roll this food over and over, so as to disintegrate and bring the gastric juice into contact with every particle of it. Now if the muscular fibres in the walls of the stomach be debilitated, the stomach is incapable of this rolling movement; and the result is, the food is not disintegrated, but lies in the stomach undigested, giving a sense of fulness there. Fulness in the stomach, an hour or two after eating, always indicates weakness in the muscular fibres of the stomach. Weakness of the muscular fibres of the intestines produces constipation, because the vermicular action of the intestines is weak or sluggish, and the contents are not driven down.

Another result of in-door life is inactivity of the liver, because it does not get enough oxygen to burn up the nitrogenous waste, and because the bowels are constipated. Torpidity of the liver is one of the commonest ailments of to-day, and is always associated with an indoor, inactive life. Hence, we find clergymen, lawyers, business and professional men of to-day, having their favorite anti-bilious pill, by which they stimulate the liver and bowels to get rid of the waste, instead of giving these organs their natural stimulant—oxygen and exercise.

Let us look for a moment at the functions of the liver. One of its principal functions is to elaborate the crude materials of gastric and intestinal digestion, carried to it by the portal vein. After the food has undergone digestion in the stomach and intestines, it is taken to the liver to undergo a refining process, before it can be taken up by the tissues. For example, the starch is converted into grape-sugar in the intestines, but as such it cannot be absorbed by the tissues; it must be taken to the liver and there converted into glycogen, in which condition the tissues take it up. Albumen is converted into albuminoids in the stomach, but will not nourish the tissues in that form. It is taken to

the liver and converted into serum-albumen, in which condition it does nourish the tissues. Thus you see the action of the liver is very important in nourishing the tissues of the body. Now when the liver is inactive, as it notably is from want of out-door life, it fails in its duty of elaborating the results of gastric and intestinal digestion, causing mal-nutrition.

But the liver has another important function. It converts the nitrogenous waste-products into soluble compounds, so that they may dissolve in the blood and be excreted in the urine. Now when the liver is torpid, it fails in elaborating the waste products, by which they may be excreted, and they accumulate in the tissue. Thus by inactivity of the liver, the tissues are not only not nourished, but also clogged up with waste materials, really poisons; and as a result the man with sluggish liver feels seedy, with a sick headache and no appetite. Under these circumstances, a man is very likely to aggravate his condition. He feels weak and has no appetite, so he tries to stimulate this by a sherry and bitters, or whiskey and soda; and if this has the desired result of increasing the appetite it is only further embarrassing the liver.

What is Nature's method of treatment in these cases. We are all familiar with a bilious attack. The appetite is abolished, so that no material will be supplied to the liver till it has got rid of its surplus, which is effected speedily by diarrhoea and vomiting, and then the appetite returns all right. These are the cases where patent pills get their reputation, because they act as purgatives and get rid of the waste. Now if you are consulted by a man with the symptoms I have just described, with a coated tongue, no appetite, and sick headache, don't give him a bitter to increase the appetite, but give him five or ten grains of blue pill at bed-time and a scidlitz powder in the morning, to act on the liver and intestinal glands, and thus get rid of the waste. In prescribing for people who live in-doors mostly, we must always take into account the liver, whose condition will be indicated by the state of the tongue.

At the same time we must not forget the cause—too little oxygen. See that your patient gets more out-door life. Frequently, added to the symptoms I have mentioned, your patient will tell you that there is often a brick-red deposit in the urine. This is always the result of too little oxygen. As you know, these are uric acid crystals and are insoluble. The liver converts nitrogenous waste into urea. But this requires a good deal of oxygen. If the oxygen is not supplied some of the nitrogenous waste is converted into uric acid, which appears in the urine as the brick-red deposit, and is abnormal, because it should not be present. Send such a patient to the woods for three or four days fishing or shooting, and this will wholly disappear.

I won't detain you further by multiplying illustrations, for these are only some of the functions of the body that are disturbed as the result of an in-door life of muscular inactivity. I hope I have said enough to make clear to you the importance of this as a factor in producing the physical debility of the present generation. At some future time I shall be glad to take up the causes of physical debility, which result from our habits of living. It is our duty as medical men to impress these facts upon the laity, and try, if possible, to remove this tendency of weakness in succeeding generations.

MEDICAL BRIEFS.

D-C-K-E should remember that Freshmen are not allowed to carry a cane or wear gaiters.

THE St. Peters politician is worried in case he will be required to go home to give evidence in the protested election case.

It is more than likely that hot lemonade was absolutely necessary after her being apprised of the fact that he was familiar with the nature of every known oath except the one he expects to take in the spring.

It is a bad wind that blows nobody good. The strong arm of fate which hath deprived him of his first love gives to him another who, although not so conversant with the nature of the splash stroke or the pivot blow, is well informed as regards the æsthetic.

JANITOR, (entering a class-room just after a lecture and with glaring eyes surveying the blackboard covered with Latin Proverbs)—
“Dr. G.—is getting too fly I’ll ’ave to clip his wings like I did Dr. C.—’s.”

Student : (meekly) :—This towel is a little dirty.

Janitor :—Look ’ere now ! you’re too particular. That towel’s been kept there for three months and you’r the first to growl.

Dem’st of Anatomy :—Have you a pin Mr. B-s-t ?

Mr. B. :—No Sir, but I have a hair pin which I got from a lady by mistake. *Dem’st*, smiles.

Freshman :—Skelly ! when will Dr. K. be here ?

Janitor :—’e ’ll be ’ere when ’e arrives.

Prof.—What are the functions of the Pancreatic juice ?

Mr. Sh.—To utilize the acidity of the stomach and lubricate the same, sir.

PERSONALS.

WE are all glad to see the genial Duncan back again and looking so well after his attack of appendicitis.

DURING the illness of Dr. McAulay, Mr. Moore is acting as House Surgeon at the V. G. H. and the position of clinical clerk is being filled by Mr. McEwen.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS.

Archie McColl, \$4.00. Prof. Charles McDonald, \$3.00. Hon. W. J. Stairs, Rev. Dr. Pollok, J. A. McLean, \$2.00 each. W. W. McNairn, L. A. McLean, J. S. M. Morrison, Miss J. Glendinning, C. W. Nicholson, A. W. McKay, A. D. Blanchard, Rev. John McMillan, Hector McInnes, A. Drysdale, W. R. McKay, Miss Thompson, Miss M. McKay, G. S. Shaw, R. McVicar, R. McPhaelan, R. O’Donoghue, Murray MacNeill, E. E. Dickey, D. McRae, D. McIntosh, John A. McKinnon, C. C. A. Longie, G. S. Gandier, R. M. Breckin, H. S. Gillespie, John Roue, Bessie Logan, J. S. Layton, J. B. Miller, J. D. McKay, H. E. Mahon, Miss E. Hetherington, L. W. Murray, George Patterson, E. P. Robbins, E. E. Jordan, A. D. Blair, H. Shinner, John Hood, L. A. Lovett, E. L. Gerrior, Harry Sedgwick, H. T. Archibald, each \$1.00.

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