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All Business Communications should be addressed A. M. HILL, Box 114, Halifax.
Literary Contributions to Editors of Dalhousie Gazette, Halifax, N. S.

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PREPARATION FOR COLLEGE WORK.

MUCH discussion has been going on of late regarding the Educational System of the Province. By some it is characterized as a “horrid grind” calculated to crush out all mental elasticity from the mind of the youth. Others, though they do not think the system a perfect one, think it as good a system as can be adopted under existing circumstances. Which of these is the correct view it is not for us to say. Nor is it the intention of this article to justify either one or the other. Our object is rather to call attention to a question which has been receiving considerable attention of late among the various colleges of our land, viz., that of a more thorough preparation on the part of the student before entering college.

The American student in comparison with the English student is said to show “a lamentable ignorance of details.” He may be and is quite as capable of grasping greater truths as his English brother, but yet this ignorance of details is a defect in his education which loudly calls for a remedy. While no

doubt it is much easier to call attention to a defect than to supply a remedy, yet we think this defect may be got rid of by a more thorough preparation before entering college. Another year spent in the High Schools or Academies would prove an incalculable benefit to a majority of those who enter upon their college course. They would thus get thoroughly grounded in the various subjects, and when they do begin their work at college they would be better able to pursue with advantage to themselves the work prescribed on the curriculum.

We are quite aware that the opinion that the real education does not begin until the college course is entered upon is quite prevalent in many quarters. This seems to us wholly a mistake. For the time spent in a thorough preparation for more advanced work is a very important part of the education. It is the time when the foundation is laid, when habits of work are formed, when the young student is taught how to work and when the various details of elementary work are fully mastered. To neglect this and hurry the student off to do more advanced work without being fully equipped is to commit a most egregious blunder and has the effect of hindering his proper mental development.

The student entering college without due preparation is handicapped from the very first. It is impossible for him to derive the benefit from the lectures he would if better trained. To many of the explanations made he is serenely unconscious. Difficulties do not present themselves to him because he does not know enough about the subject to know where they occur. And thus he continues throughout the session, not yet having learned the limited extent of his knowledge. But a sudden awakening comes when after the examinations he looks for his name on the pass list but finds it not. Then he realizes to the fullest extent and with the bitterest disappointment that he is numbered among the innocents who have fallen before the ruthless knife of the examiner. Or perhaps the poorly prepared student may, by sheer dint of perservance and hard plugging, manage to secure a pass. But even he misses the pleasures of a college course and fails to derive from it the benefit he should. He does not enter into the true spirit of college life. Far from it alas! for there is always hanging over him the terror of a "pluck," the thought that he may be numbered among the fallen.

So there is nothing left for him but a continual "grind." And the time that should be spent in college sports is spent in trying to get up work that should have been done before entering upon the course. Such a student will no doubt, by sheer industry and perserverance, with the occasional help of a "sup," carry off the much coveted sheep skin. Yet what does it mean to him? True, it represents a certain amount of hard work. But does it mean to him as much as it should? We think not. Simply because he was not prepared to do the work when he entered college, and he thus failed to receive the good from it that would otherwise have been his.

To enable students to get the most possible out of their course the standard of matriculation should be kept up. It should be sufficiently difficult so that when a student has passed it he may quite easily do the work prescribed in the curriculum. It is quite evident that the work done in the Freshman year in Arts in our own college is much harder than we would expect from the Matriculation Examination.

[N our last issue we noticed briefly the suspense existing at Toronto University, originating from a *misunderstanding*, to put it mildly, between professors and students. Instead of improving, matters seem decidedly to have grown worse. The *Varsity* appears again, however, and seems to be in remarkable good health considering the attack made upon it by the Senate. So far, one professor has been dismissed, an instructor has resigned through sympathy with the students, and the end is by no means yet. Messrs. Jury and Thompson, the labor leaders, who were unwittingly the match which ignited the explosion, addressed the students in an outside hall where the power of the Dons could not reach. Serious charges are being brought against the governing body of the University, and as we hinted, the Ontario government will probably be called in to end the rather intricate dispute.

LAST year's class has presented to the Library a very valuable set of Smith's Classical Dictionaries, Seyfert's Classical Dictionary, Sellar's Horace and the Elegaic Poets, Henry's Comparative Grammar.

OVER forty dollars was cleared at the entertainment at Orpheus Hall, which will be expended for the library. Had the evening been fine, likely over double that amount would have been to the credit of the "company," but we must be thankful for small mercies and hope for better luck next time.

Contributed.

PROUMA.

Into my life she came like a sunbeam,
A ray in the blackness of night;
Warmed was my heart and helped was my hoping
By her, my beloved, my light.

Into my life she came like the morning
That softens the dull in the sky,
Chasing the gloom and the cankering care
Back where the dead echoes lie.

Out of my life she went like a whisper
That angels might breathe as they soar;
Broken and lone is the temple she graced;
Sunshine and joy are all o'er.

—Macl.

STUDENT LIFE AT EDINBURGH UNIVERSITY.

Edina! Scotland's darling seat!
All hail thy palaces and towers,
Where once beneath a monarch's feet,
Sat Legislation's sovereign power.

HOWEVER romantic the past history of the Scottish capital may have been, however often "the ponderous wall and mossy bar" of her castle may have withstood assailing war and repelled the invader's shock, Edinburgh is in these tamer and more commercial days, noted chiefly for her books and beer. Whatever internal relation there is between books and beer, it is for the psychologist or the "plucked" student to say. It is enough for the tourist to know that the magnificent structure just in process of completion, known as the McEwan Hall, the handsomest section of the University, is the gift of the largest shareholder in the breweries of the city. As to the quality of the beer we are no judge; and as to the books, are there not book-tasters in profusion? What visitor to Edinburgh has not watched them with a curious eye, in their shiny black coats, tall hats, and gold rimmed spectacles, hovering around the book-stalls like bees about a flower, sipping here and sipping there, and eventually starting for home more than laden with their bulky treasures? And what visitor has not caught the contagion of their wild enthusiasm? To many a student, indeed, the University of Edinburgh is not its gloomy buildings nor ponderous lectures, nor feverish examinations, but these same book-stalls with their serried ranks of gray and dark volumes, through whose broken binding peeps out the learning of the ages.

Edinburgh is the educational centre of Scotland, if indeed not of a wider sphere. To her schools and colleges every October come 15,000 boys and girls for instruction in Science, Philosophy, Divinity, Medicine, Arts, Manners and Cookery. Of these about 3000 matriculate in the University proper. The University was remodelled two years ago, when the Faculties of Science and Music were organized for the first time. Here are the statistics culled from a recent copy of the *Scotsman*, and they tell their own story to such as care to read it:

Number of Students attending Edinburgh University.

Year.	Arts.	Science.	Divinity.	Law.	Medicine.	Music.	Total.
1889.....	981	...	124	472	2025	..	3602
1890.....	940	...	116	468	1979	..	3593
1891.....	942	...	88	485	1835	..	3354
1892.....	881	...	82	460	1719	..	3138
1893.....	758	156	79	452	1641	..	3066
1894.....	639	150	68	454	1494	4	2809

Net diminution during the six years, 793, made up of 342 Arts, 56 Divinity, 18 Law, 531 Medicine—947; less students of Science, 150, and students of Music, 4—154. The above figures do not include students enrolled in single classes on payment of 5s. entrance fee, nor do they include women students. For the current session 205 women are matriculated at Glasgow, and 140 at Edinburgh. The Faculty of Science, constituted in 1892, embraces students who in previous years were included in Arts or Medicine, so that the diminution in these Faculties is not so great as might at first sight appear.

This article is not a history of the University. Anyone eager to know that can stand in the rain on South Bridge until he deciphers the old Latin inscription over the main portal. If he succeeds, he may enter with hope and try his skill on the well-known enigma in the Greek class room, on which young classical teeth are annually broken. If he succeeds, he may congratulate himself upon some evidence of genius. For history it is enough to know that nine years ago the tercentenary was celebrated with torchlight procession, blaze of illumination, and brilliancy of oratory.

The University comprises two buildings, situated about a quarter of a mile apart, between which students who endeavour to run two faculties at the same time, may be seen rushing wildly through the mud, to the consternation of timid women and children, under the very windows where DeQuincey smoked his opium in quiet sarcasm of human life. The new building is confined to the Medical Faculty, and reeks of tobacco smoke. It is around the grey, veteran walls of the South Bridge building that the chief interest centres. Over them hangs the tale of a thousand memories. Here walk the shades of Hume, Carlyle, Irving, Chalmers, Sir David Brewster, and most of those who have made Scotland great in arts and literature. The outside is plain and unattractive. A cynical student pointed it out to a lady friend as the jail, and his fair companion, gazing timidly

through the iron bars of the gate, observed a Divinity class pour into the quadrangle, believed him, shuddered and passed on.

The inside of the University is equally disappointing to an American. The rooms are gloomy and badly lighted, the sunlight that struggles in through the dusty panes being supplemented by the ghastly glimmer of gaslights. If any boy of fourteen in America can write better than Christopher Columbus, any public school in America can produce better ventilated and healthier rooms than these. The long pew-like desks, besides being uncomfortable, are covered with a sandy concrete, to the everlasting destruction of books and coat sleeves, but which effectually prevents those from leaving their names on the desks who would not leave them on the pass lists. The Mathematical class-room by some mischance was over-looked, and in consequence a student seized his opportunity and relieved his feelings by carving on them Dante's despairing message, "All Hope abandon ye who enter here."—the work of a session.

No students reside on the College grounds. A gravelly quadrangle, where the martial spirit of the University is paraded in time of peace in Martini-Henri's and a gatling gun, and in time of Rectorial election in blue and yellow ochre, is the only College grounds that exist. The students quarter themselves all over the city. They "hang out" or "dig" as it is called, according to the characteristic attitude of the student, the terms being prophetic of either a "pluck" or a "pass." But the students, like the Jews in Jerusalem, or the Irish in New York, monopolise a certain district in the city. Wanender Park and Marchmont in October have their windows decorated with clean muslin, their furniture polished, "apartments" hung out, and Mrs. Bardell proceeds with a spider-like politeness to invite the riotous, medical or grave-faced theologian, to walk into her parlor.

The traffic in students has become quite an anxious science and means of support to Edinburgh landladies. But it is a question whether the large amount of individual liberty allowed by this system to almost beardless boys, in the heart of a large city, is judicious. The hopeless wrecks—the victims of intemperance—that many become before their college course is completed, would seem to argue against it. On the other hand, it develops a more independent and self-contained type of man; and it allows the impecunious Scot an opportunity to educate himself from which he would be debarred, were he to pay the higher rates, that board in the College buildings would require. And the Scot from time immemorial has been impecunious. A curious proof of this is still observed in the University. The second Monday in February, or "Meal Monday" as it is called, comes about mid-way between Christmas and the close of the Session. On it no classes are held; for by this time the bag of

meal which the student had brought from home at Christmas, and which was often his only food, had run out, and he required a holiday to go home and get it refilled. A movement, however, is now gaining ground to try buildings in the neighbourhood of the University, for the boarding of students under proper supervision.

Student life *within the College* therefore, is largely restricted to a somewhat monotonous round of lectures and examinations, which increases in pressure and weariness as the session rolls by, so that one could almost tell the season of the year without the aid of a Belcher's Almanac, by the slower step, the paler faces, and the sharper features of the students.

A relief is afforded by the numerous debating societies: the Philomathic, for ambitious orators; the Dialectic, whose autocratic watchword would seem to be "Odi profanum vulgus"; the Diagnostic, and various other geographical, linguistic, and sectarian societies, where local gossip, or the secrets of a creed, or the tortures of an unknown tongue may be indulged in, apart from the gaze of a too inquisitive world. But high above all the rest stood that which was scarcely approachable, and which can hardly be mentioned without profanity, the Philosophical Society. This mysterious Society was under the special patronage of the professors, and to it the great ones of the earth came to lecture. Rumour used to run that these philosophers lay on sofas and sipped coffee, while they cracked the problems of the universe. Of recent years, however, it has been stormed by a troop of Neo-Hegelians, and so effectually captured, that last winter it succumbed altogether. Was it because the problem was finally solved, and the Society had achieved its task? Or did these Neo-Hegelians wink to one another like Roman augurs when they met, and was it the abandonment of hope and the dissolution of despair?

In addition to the debating societies, there has of recent years arisen a new and more successful centre for student life, in the stirring organization known as the Student's Union. Their building, erected at a cost of £3000, contains everything from a select library and reading room to the billiard table and indispensable coffee. No intoxicants, however, are sold on the premises. Here it is that the parliament of the College,—the Students' Representative Council,—discusses its affairs of state. Here it is that the grand general debates of the session are held, open to the whole University, where political questions are canvassed with an eagerness and vivacity that is not outdone by the House of Commons itself. Dinner and ideas are served with equal alacrity and precision; and it is to this enterprising Union that the eyes of students are turned for future developments in their social life. No student from this side should fail to put himself in touch with this sociable, convenient and useful institution.

But the special charm of Edinburgh University is its keen intellectual atmosphere. Its architecture and social life may be far inferior to those of American Colleges, but the desire to think kindles alike the brains of all, from the don of established reputation to the young aspirant, whose name is hardly dug on the Matriculation Album. All shades of philosophical opinion are earnestly held and eagerly discussed. Hegelianism looks out through pale, dreamy eyes, and meets the contemptuous smile of Empiricism. Nowhere is the conflict of ideas more intense. The thought of the University becomes a very Maelstrom, sucking everything into its foaming vortex. Not a book is published but is quickly seized, and though one may never see its pages, he becomes, he knows not how, familiar with its contents. It is this intense, if idealistic intellectuality that gives Edinburgh its chief attraction as compared with the practical genius of American Colleges, with their contempt for what cannot be turned to practical account. In addition to this the exceptional facilities that the city itself offers in its numerous libraries, lectures, and visit of illustrious men, make it, what it has always been, an eagerly coveted centre of education.

WALTER PATER.

Read before the Philomathic, by T. A. B.

IN the general buzz for notoriety, men and women vieing with each other to be known—now this man, now that taking the lead in some 19th century movement—we gladly turn to those plodding away for Art's sake. While people with little money and less sense are paraded over the pages of the newspaper, and our ears are deafened hearing of their brainless exploits, how delightful to learn that a man may be truly great and not gossiped about by the rabble.

Much of the private life of Walter Pater is unknown to the world, hidden by the "close curtain" of some "loving black-brow'd night," whose sanctity has miraculously escaped the reporters' mangling hands. His family was of Dutch extraction. It is believed that his forefathers came over with William of Orange. They, reserved and shy, mixed little with their new neighbours, preserving many of their Dutch customs, and keeping through several generations this division of the family. The sons were brought up as Roman Catholics, while the daughters were reared in the faith of their native land. Walter Pater just before his marriage left the R. C. Church, and his two sons were trained in the Anglican faith. One of these sons, Walter, was born at Shadwell, Aug. 4, 1839. His father died some two or three years later, and the widow moved to Enfield. The future critic attended the Grammar School here, and at fourteen entered King's School, Canterbury. The ecclesiastical

city, with its quaint old curiosities, deeply impressed the imagination of this child, who had inherited the shy, retiring nature of his fathers, and perhaps their love for the ancient and veneration for forms and symbols of faith. As a child he loved to have processions and ceremonies in which he was always a cardinal or a bishop. He was very idle during his first years at King's, nor was it till he reached the sixth form that his faculties seemed really to waken. He cared little for outdoor games, wishing rather to be a spectator than a participant in the "ups and downs" of school boys' sports. At home he was always considered the *clever one*. (How many of us could say the same).

In 1858 he entered Queen's College, Oxford, as a commoner, and four years later took his degree, obtaining only a second class in *Literae Humaniorae*. In these four years there appears nothing remarkable. He did not at this time show any particular fondness for pure literature, but was much fascinated by Logic and Metaphysics. It is strange, indeed, that he is not known to have made any attempt to write either at school or college; his earliest essays being as finished in style as the author was mature in years. If he made any unsuccessful experiments in authorship, the world is none the wiser.

In 1862, Pater took rooms in High St., Oxford, and read with private pupils, and two years later he was elected fellow of Braenose College. A change now came over his mind, influenced perhaps by the alteration in his material existence. He became a student of poetry, and more in sympathy with his associates. In these years he spent his vacations in France in the company of his sisters. The famous essay, Winckelmann, was published in 1867; his advance now, tho' slow, was unbroken.

In 1882, he travelled through France and thence to Rome, making the journey very slowly, being wholly engrossed in absorbing the beauty of the embellished creations of art. Three years later he published *Marius the Epicurean*. Of its kind, this grave and vigorous work is indeed paramount, and its success was what we would expect. Its sale differed somewhat from that of a well-advertised love story or illustrated magazine, ("well rather,") for the uncultivated are tickled only by what appeals to their sentiments or senses.

In 1889 appeared *Appreciations*, with an *Essay on Style*. These are a collection of critical studies, the essay a little difficult to wade through, but quite worth the labor.

In 1893 he published his highly finished lectures on Plato and Platonism. The following year appeared the "Child in the House." The value of Pater's works does not depend on the quantity, but on the elaborate perfection of it in every detail. No line in the work shows the slightest carelessness. "I have known," says a friend of his, "writers of every degree, but never one to whom the act of composition was such a travail and an agony as it was to Pater." In his earlier years the labor of

constructing a sentence was so terrific, that any one with less fortitude would have abandoned the effort. With practice came ease and perfection, (consolation for the compilers of the Red Book in our English Room). He always wrote on ruled paper, leaving each alternate line blank. On this he slowly wrote his composition, at first a mere bare outline. Then at his leisure and as the inspiration came, he would fill up the blank alternate lines with more delicately tinted descriptions, adjectives of subtler meaning, more exquisitely related adverbs, until the blanks were filled. Then he copied out the whole, leaving, as before, each alternate line blank. This was revised in the same way again and again. We are forcibly reminded that "art is long," and feel akin to the Americans who say cut it short. This perfected perfection is at times oppressive, as is the sustained grandeur of Millar. It is hard to soar in the heavens continually with wings clipped. Like the youth of Lord Beaconsfield, we rather like bad wine, one gets so bored with good wine.

The exquisite perfection and the golden charm of the subtle grace in every line, makes his style unique, inimitable. A "man of authority" once said on being questioned as to the style of an author, "I did not notice it." No one could read Carlyle without feeling a little of the "shock and shiver of the fray," or Tennyson, where "A rolling organ harmony swells up and shakes and falls," but Pater's "sweetness" elaborated and "long drawn out" is "music that gentler on the spirit lies, than tired eyelids upon tired eyes."

Pater himself was quiet and reserved, loving his art more than fame or the pleasures that Society could offer. He showed much tact and good sense in his attitude towards the college life. He lectured rarely in his later days. (The students no doubt appreciated his consideration). In the old days he was a sedulous tutor. It was sometimes difficult to work with him, owing to his peculiar temperament. On one occasion at the examination for scholarships, he undertook to look over the English essays. When the examiners met to compare notes, Pater had none. He languidly explained, "They did not strike me." As something had to be done he was asked to endeavor to recall such impressions as he had formed, to stimulate his memory the names were read out in alphabetical order. Pater mournfully shook his head as each was pronounced, murmuring dreamily: "I do not recall him." "He did not strike me," and so on. At last the reader came to the name Sanctuary, on which Pater's face lit up. "Oh yes, I remember I liked his name."

Pater grew more and more inclined to take an indulgent view of young people. The Bishop of Peterborough recalls a serious discussion in a room at Brasenose College, on the burning

question of University reform. Pater interrupted in the midst of the discussion: "I do not know what your object is. At present the undergraduate is a child of nature; he grows up like a wild rose in a country lane, you want to turn him into a turnip, rob him of all grace, and plant him out in rows."

He evidently sympathized with "scrimmagers." Agreeing with Pater about the "undergraduates," let us for a few moments turn to the interesting topic of scrimmaging, fagging, and bouncing, that so delights the heart of this "child of nature."

Strange to relate these sports have many opponents, but Englishmen say fagging makes fellows manly. It teaches them to be self-denying and obedient. It teaches them also to serve, and prevents them from the evils of cockering and pampering. Besides, the "proof of the pudding is in eating." Is there a manlier nation than the English? Are there braver and better leaders of men on sea and shore, in battle and in parliament than the well-fagged graduates of the English schools? The Americans scorn fagging, it does not agree with their spirit of independence. They think it less manly and decent than hazing. If a crowd of Sophs may toss a Freshman in a blanket, why should not a fellow in an upper form properly fag one in a lower. The ducking of one man in the river, or holding him under the tap, is undoubtedly a neat and pointed joke, full of wit and humour. But we must not deny the equal exquisiteness of the jest of forcing a fag to kindle the fire before dressing on a frosty morning. These are excellent sports. They argue keen sense of humour and kind heart.

In the American school, as a Vermont paper says of graded schools in that state, a new pupil is subjected to the "school bite," which is a slap on the back from the fist or the open hand *ad libitum*; and upon passing into a higher grade, he is seized by four boys and is given the bounce. If he admits he is "rotten," he is spared, but if he insists that he is "sound," he is thrown again. This Delsarte has developed spinal disease, but nothing could be more excellent jesting, it is only the fruit of exuberant spirits, and takes the nonsense out of molly coddles and milk-sops. Who wants a boy's school to be a prayer-meeting, or that boys should behave in their sports like deacons? Boys will be boys, and bouncing, bumping, hazing, scrimmaging is but boys' fun.

Besides, its moral advantages are as evident as its fun. It is well known that nothing is better for children than to accustom them to stick pins through flies, and watch the taking off of chickens and pigs. It fosters a kindly feeling, a sensibility to pain, a sympathy with every form of suffering, which refine the character and elevate the mind. Flies and chickens and pigs cannot help themselves. It is so with the new pupil. He cannot help himself, and when a crowd of older, bigger and stronger fellows fall upon him and treat him to a ducking,

or a throw up and fall, they are not only making a joke which is suitable for their time of life, and which all healthy minded persons must enjoy, but they are humanizing and refining themselves.

But back to our subject. Pater firmly believed in the relationship between discipline and refinement, circumstance and character, and traced to the influence of the schools and colleges much that is characteristically English. Little things, innovations and improvements, had for him a deeper meaning. Like Plato he felt "change in a nation's music meant change in a nation's laws."

The dramatic criticism came from his hands clothed in language of triumphant nicety. Amongst the many English writers he stood alone, the champion or follower of no school. He did for criticism what Browning did for monologue, and Carlyle for history,—dramatized it.

His rare work, given to the world at intervals, quietly reminded the restless new generation of the necessity and nobility of labor, which is seemingly in danger of becoming old-fashioned. There is not a shadow of pedantry in his life or work, but both are the expression of his whole-souled devotion to literature. A greater loss to contemporary literature, could hardly have been. The nobility and purity of this eminent scholar and man of letters were justly recognized, and increasingly he became an object of respect and veneration to the students at Oxford, whom he treated always with the kindest indulgence.

We who read of his life and peruse his works, and those who knew him personally, cannot but feel a reverent affection for this shy, reserved writer laid to rest last August, beneath the green grass of his own Oxford.

Correspondence.

CONCERNING THE READING ROOM.

Editors Dalhousie Gazette :—

THERE is a matter that should engage the attention of the students of this University, and that immediately. For an institution of the *status* of Dalhousie the present condition of the reading room is a disgrace. It is used as a cloak-room or a gymnasium, but seldom for what it is presumably intended. Indeed one can never be sure of five minutes quiet in which to do a little reading. The college periodicals, and such papers as are not fortunate enough to claim a position on the racks, are most frequently used as missiles, or are to be found on

the floor in lieu of carpet. Reform is needed both in the contents and in the control of the room.

The local papers from various parts of the province are provided, but the list is not nearly as complete as it should be in order to bring all the students within reach of home news. All the counties should be represented as far as such is possible. But our interests are not confined to our own country or province; we want news, general and political, from other parts, and yet the leading papers of the upper provinces, on both sides of politics, are not to be found in the reading room. These, together with representative papers of the political parties of the United States, should be accessible; while the English "Times" is a paper that should be in every reading room worthy of the name.

And then the magazines. This is the age of magazines. Every art, every trade, every department of science and philosophy, every society, political, social, or religious, finds expression of its views through the magazine. They are a boon to every busy man, and who is busier than the student? A man writes a dozen magazine articles for the one book he publishes. It is from the magazines that one can gather the social, political, or religious views of the world's eminent men in all branches of research. There discussions are carried on; there reviews and criticisms of new books appear, and recent scientific discoveries recorded. And yet with such a wealth of material within reach we make no effort to obtain it. One often hears the remark that the college graduate is four years behind the times in so far as knowledge of the world's progress in art, science, literature, politics, and social reform is concerned; and that on subjects of present practical interest to all classes and creeds he either has no opinion or an opinion founded on very insufficient data. And although one recognizes this and feels that he is insensibly losing sympathy with present problems, yet to know that he should keep abreast of the times and to do it are very different matters, especially where the means of doing so are not within easy reach. In justice to ourselves, then, we should make an effort to obtain such papers and periodicals as will keep us informed of current events, and in touch with those movements of thought and feeling which are being expressed in social and political reforms at present pursued or advocated.

Our thanks are due to the professors and others who supply the library with current literary, scientific and philosophic magazines. But the number should be greatly increased by the addition of other periodicals of acknowledged worth. And if they would not be safe in the reading room from those who have not yet passed the "puppy dog" stage of their existence, no doubt space would gladly be given for them in some corner of the library.

Besides this there is need of additional newspaper files in the reading room itself, that papers need not be left loose on the table to be mutilated or destroyed. Could not a committee be chosen annually by the Arts' Students' Meeting, and allowed sufficient funds, to be collected from the students, to make such changes in the arrangements of the room as will render it more serviceable to the mass of the students; and to secure such papers and magazines as cannot be obtained through exchange with the GAZETTE or purchased from the profits of that paper? It is, perhaps, too late to move in the matter with reference to this session, but we are surely provident enough to take such measures as will secure future profit and convenience. H.

College Societies.

GENERAL STUDENTS' MEETING.—The regular semi-annual General Students' Meeting was held in the Munro Room on Monday, February 11th. Two matters of more than usual interest were up for discussion,—the subject of valedictories and—the granting the medical students an additional representative on the editorial staff. Dr. Forrest was present and explained the wishes of the faculty in regard to the convocation proceedings in general and to valedictories in particular. The faculty were not pleased with the valedictories on account both of their matter and of their length. They did not do either the college or the student himself justice. Dr. F. then left the matter to the meeting and withdrew. After a free discussion it was decided to recommend to the faculty that the three valedictories be continued with a time limit of fifteen minutes. The extra editor was given the Meds. but the proposal to take one from the Law was voted down. There being nothing further the meeting adjourned.

PHILOMATHIC.—There was quite a large attendance at the meeting of the Philomathic Society on February 8th. After routine business the Society proceeded to elect officers for the ensuing year:

- President.....R. M. MCGREGOR.
- Vice-Presidents
 - W. D. ROSS.
 - D. McODRUM.
 - A. L. MCKAY.
 - W. M. SEDGWICK.
- Secretary-TreasurerG A. SUTHERLAND.
- Executive Committee.—MISS BESSIE CUMMING, MISS ELMA BAKER, H. R. REID, D. McINTOSH.

Business disposed of, the programme for the evening was carried out. Mr. W. D. Ross read a paper on "James Anthony Froude." In this paper the principal facts of Froude's life, the changes by which it was marked, were carefully shown, together with the brilliant style but historical inaccuracy which characterized his writings.

This was followed by a paper on "Walter Pater," written by Miss Bent. This paper gave an animated description of Pater's life, especially mentioning his college career. This topic suggested some ideas on college life in general, and Miss Bent entered in a very humorous manner into a discussion of such features of college life as "scrimmaging," "hazing," and similiar "sports." The argument in favor of some of these were given in such a way that they did not add materially to the position of those inclined to uphold them, but the discussion itself was thoroughly enjoyed by all. The last paper of the evening was read by Mr. R. M. McGregor on the life and writings of "Robert Louis Stevenson." All the important facts of Stevenson's life, his great aversion to study in his early years, his noble zeal in playing truant, his brave, almost pathetic battle against a mortal disease were splendidly outlined. Indeed the three papers were of a very high order and were thoroughly enjoyed by those present. It is not the purpose of an account like this to give the details brought out. But one thing which would impress itself upon all in listening to the description of the different writers was the slow and painful manner of Pater's compositions as contrasted with the careless brilliancy, especially of Stevenson. But by this wearisome process and his infinite capacity for taking pains, Pater wrote in a style that was almost faultless, showing what may be accomplished by persistent effort. Several other topics suggested by the writers might be profitably discussed, but space does not permit. A short discussion and a hearty vote of thanks to the writers of the papers brought this very interesting meeting to a close.

Y. M. C. A.—On the evening of January 19th the annual meeting for the election of officers was held. Those elected for session '95-'96 are as follows:

- President.....A. F. ROBB.
- Vice-PresidentW. A. ROSS.
- Recording Secretary.....W. O. DAKIN.
- Corresponding Secretary.....G. A. SUTHERLAND.
- TreasurerH. M. CLARK.

A missionary meeting was held on Saturday evening, February 3rd. The subject considered was "Japan." Papers were prepared by Messrs. G. A. Grant, L. A. McLean, and Miss

Minnie Grant. These papers were well written and fully discussed the political and religious situation of Japan.

Thursday, January 31st, was observed by colleges all over America as a day of prayer. Whatever rivalry existed between different institutions, all thought of such was laid aside for one day at least and all realized their unity of aim and endeavour as young men seeking to do their appointed part in their different spheres. A meeting in our own college at 8.15 a. m., which was well attended, was followed by an address at noon by the Rev. F. Wright of Brunswick Street Methodist Church. With intense earnestness of manner and feeling he impressed on young men the grandeur, the nobleness of the Christian life,—of a life with a true, pure and definite aim and purpose. It was an address very applicable to us all as students, and calculated to make all think of their privileges no less than their responsibilities in relation one with the other and with God. It left one with a deeper realization of the glorious possibilities there are in life, a determination not to tarnish its glories, not to live the lower life when the higher is attainable; a determination to find our true place in the world and manfully act out our part, sustained by the knowledge that God is with us and that the right must triumph. It is only in the truth that we can rest and God is Truth.

It is not often that we hear Prof. McGregor lecture outside his class-room. But we had that privilege on the afternoon of Sunday, February 3rd, when he addressed the students on the subject, "Some Practical Aspects of the Relation between Christianity and Scepticism." An even larger number than usual were present and listened closely for over an hour, only sorry when the Doctor felt compelled to stop. One knowing the lecturer needs not to be told that the subject was ably treated, and we are sure that every one present feels very grateful to Prof. McGregor for his interesting and helpful address.

On Sunday afternoon, February 17th, Rev. D. J. Fraser of Wolfville, addressed the students, subject, "Christian Manliness." By clear and well-cut arguments he showed that the Christian ideal of manhood was the only perfect one, and that the man who becomes thoroughly a Christian begins the march towards the completion of his humanity, and so for the first time is truly a man. Mr. Fraser's excellent and scholarly address was much appreciated by the large audience present.

D. A. A. C.—The semi-annual meeting of the D. A. A. C. was held in the Munro Room on Thursday, February 21st, at half-past four. The Treasurer's report was read and adopted. The balance in hand for the year was about one hundred and thirty dollars. The election of officers then took place resulting as follows:

Hon. President.....DR. FORREST.
 President.....H. MAXWELL.
 Vice-President.....R. H. MURRAY.
 Treasurer.....JACK TAYLOR.
 Secretary.....L. MCLEAN.
 Executive Committee—MCLREITH, MCINTOSH, MACGREGOR,
 ROBB.
 Trophy Committee.—MCLREITH, BARNSTEAD.

Some discussion then took place in regard to the old question of grounds, and the matter was left in the hands of the executive committee. The meeting then adjourned.

Exchanges.

Acta Victoriana is one of the most welcome and best of our exchanges. It has a neat appearance and a convenient form. The contents always present a pleasing variety and are well arranged. The January number has a short article on the life and works of the late Robert Louis Stevenson. We clip the following from an interesting article on "Chinese Examinations" (the examinations dealt with are the triennial State ones for M. A.)—"Less than one hundred of these fifteen thousand (candidates) will be successful. The few hundred papers that the assistant examiners decide to possess superior merit are re-written, so that none of the candidates essays appear in his own handwriting before the chief examiners. Over a hundred men are said this year to have become insane, either temporarily or permanently, during the very first sitting, and while they continued to write, they wrote nothing but sheer nonsense. This is a common occurrence. Four men in the first sitting died, probably from anxiety and exhaustion. In the second two men committed suicide. Since then two others have died and doubtless there are several more that will only live a week or two."

THE January number of *Queen's University Journal* is a good one. It contains the third part of the continued article on the "Prometheus myth in Aeschylus." "Sketches from the Foot Hills" contrasts the mode of life of the Indian, before contact with the "pale face" with his present condition and habits of life. This number has also a short extract from the address delivered by Prof. Osler, at the opening of the new Medical Buildings at McGill. This contains many good ideas. In conclusion he says, "There remains now to foster that indefinable something, which for want of a better term, we call the 'University Spirit,' a something which a rich institution may not have, and with which a poor one may be saturated, a something which is associated with men and not with money; which can

not be purchased in the market, or grown to order, but which comes insensibly with loyal devotion to duty and to high ideals."

The Niagara Index has reached the twenty-fifth year of its existence and celebrates the event by issuing a special jubilee number. This is dedicated to the former editors and is filled with sketches of Index life in years gone by. These reminiscent contributions are all written by those who have felt the joys and sorrows, the trials and triumphs of editorial life, on the Index staff. This number also contains the portraits of all the editors from 1870 to 1895, inclusive.

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.]

MR. F-LKN-R lately passed a most successful exam. in "Interruptions."

BY all that's sensible, what was W. R. lugging that bird upstairs for?

PROF.—Fog is something which hangs over,—er hangs over—
STUDENT.—(Breaking in and supplying the word,) St. John.

WHY does L-yt-n spend so much time before the north end church on Saturday nights?

THE genial Osborne of the 2nd year has left us. Our Lady Students mourn but Elmsdale is delighted.

A NEW method of administering medicine to children has been discovered, "Take hold of them by the nose then they must open their mouth." Presto!

NEVER mind what the pretty freshie says, you can't get mucilage in a grocery store, and it was not Gideon that went up in the chariot of fire.

PROF. OF ENGLISH reading Spenser:

"And thou most dreaded impe of highest Jove
Faire Venus sonne."

MR. G-N.—That's me. (hyp.)

Proof.—Scene at door of Park St. Church on Sunday nights and in first balcony of the Academy of Music.

FRESHIE Maurice McK-n surprised, pained and alarmed us the other day. Coming down the stairs we heard a cry of weeping and strong supplication. Thoroughly excited we hastened to the hall where we found *horrendum dictu* Maurice on his knees before a young lady. Such conduct (in public) is outrageous and some steps should be taken by the Faculty to prevent these verdant youths from becoming complete nuisances.

MR. K-DDY attended a party the other night. He attempted to see a girl home. The streets were stippery. They were very slippery. He fell. He was hurt. He was badly hurt. He could not get home. The kind girl borrowed a wheel-barrow and rolled him home.

P. S. The broken sentences indicate K-ddy's condition.

WHAT'S UP! Is H. T. A. going the downward way? We were alarmed the other morning when a solemn group from Pine Hill gathered around us and with blanched faces enquired; "Have you seen anything of Ar-ch-d?" What was our surprise—and pain—to see the lost one driven up to the college door a few hours afterwards in F—'s sleigh. He was able to walk. Oh H. T. be a good boy and never get spificated.

IT will be remembered that at the last Arts' Students' Meeting a committee was appointed to collect pictures of former football teams for the decoration of the Munro Room walls. So far nothing has been done in the matter, and the GAZETTE editors take upon themselves the right of asking students who may happen to have in their possession *fac similes* of our gladiators of the olden days, to hand them in as soon as possible.

THE Freshies have had their picture taken. The Photographer informs us that he experienced the greatest difficulty in getting them to keep still. Everything was so strange to them. They pinched and stuck pins in one another until the artist was wild. Promise what he would, he could not keep R—s and McR—e from looking up at "that funny window in the roof." When they were leaving, B—n and D—v-s wanted to carry away the camera because the picture was "in that thing."

N B.—We recommend, if the college finances are in a satisfactory condition, that a copy of this picture be placed in the museum.

A CERTAIN senior is *fostering* thoughts of love in his heart, if we are to judge by what he says. The following is an extract:

O lassie, dear lassie, did ever a doubt
Endeavor to put your affection to rout,
Quick, spurn it from thee, and never believe
That I, altho' absent, would ever deceive.

O lassie, dear lasie, wipe off the tear,
The exams. are all set, the B. A. is near,
And soon thy new frock I shall view from afar.
While I envy the kiss you bestow on mamma.

A SENSE OF THE RIDICULOUS.—In the distant long ago there was a student whose name will ever be green in the memory of those whose happy privilege it was to be in college with him. Not that he was green, oh no! but he was original without a doubt. Strange and wonderful stories are told of his powers as skating champion during his pre-graduate course in the "dear old Academy." Of course that is a "chestnut" now.

One rainy Sunday afternoon he was sitting in his room in company with his friend J. He was reading his Bible. The room was very quiet. Suddenly Mr. T. began to laugh. "What's the fun. What's the fun," exclaimed his chum, who was always on deck when any devilment was to pay. "Ha, ha, ha," replied Mr. T., "ha, ha, ha." J's patience was about exhausted when T. in a voice broken with roars of laughter, while the tears rolled down his cheeks like the frost melting off a window pane before the brightness of the sun, said: "What a fool Haman was to build a gallows and then get hung on it himself, ha, ha, ha, it's too funny, ha, ha, ha." P.

ON Friday evening, February 1, the Dalhousie Amateur Dramatic Club crossed the briny and gave their M. S. D performance at Mount Hope Asylum for the benefit of the inmates. Teams were waiting at the ferry wharf and the drive to the asylum was enlivened by songs. There we were met by Dr. Hattie who gave us a cordial welcome. About eight o'clock the curtain rose to a "well filled," and to judge by the applause, to an appreciative house. True one or two of the audience objected to the performance but nevertheless everything went swimmingly. A special feature of the programme was the singing of Mr. R. T. D. Aitkin, who was enthusiastically encored. After the play was over some of the audience came forward and shook hands with the company, and one went so far as to claim Campbell as an old friend. But it was getting late and our chaperon, Dr. MacMechan, was anxious to get his arduous task over, so an adjournment was made to the rooms of Mrs. Dixon, where refreshments awaited us. Then a little dance was begun, but Nemesis in the shape of our genial professor, was at our heels,

and the giddy waltz had to be abandoned. We reached the wharf in good time for the boat and arrived safely at our respective homes, each feeling that we had enjoyed ourselves thoroughly, perhaps from the consciousness of 'one good deed done.'

SCENE I.

PRESIDENT C-MPB-LL of Alb. S. Seminary, indisposed, sitting on lounge with bandaged head. Landlady and family sitting around. Tremendous din heard outside

Pres. C.—Pray gracious madam shin up to yonder aperture and ascertain the cause of the uproar.

Landlady.—I see a multitude advancing. Methinks they be sons of Ham. Some carry pots and kettles, others old pails and sticks.

Pres. C.—(visibly affected.) Canst discern their habit, dearest madam?

Landlady.—They are arrayed in divers colours, moreover their garments lack symmetry of cut, and several indispensable articles of apparel seem wanting.

Pres. C.—Dost espy the leader?

Landlady.—Yea. He wears an awful visage. The right sleeve of his coat and left half of his nether garments are wanting. In his right hand he holds a pike which he brandishes wildly.

Pres. C.—(greatly excited.) Speak woman. Is his left ear missing? Canst see a plaster on his chin, and is he lame of the right foot?

Landlady.—Even so.

Pres. C.—(terribly agitated.) Then am I undone. 'Tis Squum whom I have lately castigated in the institution. In mercy shield me from his cruel rage.

(Great confusion in the house. *Pres. C.* is concealed in the underground chambers. Mob enters and searches for him unsuccessfully.)

SCENE II, Two days after.

Pres. C. (to Landlady.)—Pray order your attendant to provide me with these weapons; 1 bow and a quiver of arrows, 4 pikes, 3 swords, 4 shields and a helmet. I must look to my defence before going down to the institution to-day.

PROF. OF POL. E.—“What do you think of Perry's Principles, Mr. S-th-d?”

Mr. S.—“I have not read as closely as I would like, but I am persuaded that Perry's Principles are admirable.”

PROF. OF HIST.—“Mr. McR-e, where was Erasmus sent in youth by his guardian?”

Mr. McR-e.—“To a nunnery.”

W. R. McK. (meekly, after applause has subsided.)—“What crime must a man commit to be sent to a nunnery?”

Personals.

PROF. JOHN WADDELL of Kingston, B. A., '77, has our thanks for missing numbers of GAZETTE asked for in a previous issue.

MR. M. D. GRANT of last year's graduating class, is at present occupying a lucrative position in a large Boston stationery house.

MR. WM. BROWN, C. E., of the class of '88, is engaged in the construction of the Dartmouth Branch Railway.

MR. MELVILLE J. CUMMING, of the class of '96, whom temporary ill-health compelled him to remain at home this session, delighted his friends in college by a short visit during the past week.

REV. CHRISTOPHER MUNRO, B. A., '91, has been spending a few days in the city, presumably to look out an occupant for the Oxford Manse.

E. E. HEWSON, LL. B., '94, remains for a time with Townshend & Rogers, of Amherst, from which firm MR. A. R. DICKEY has lately retired on his appointment as Secretary of State.

ON the opening day of the House of Assembly we were pleased to notice in the mover and seconder of the address in reply to the Governor's speech, two old Dalhousians, Messrs. J. H. SINCLAIR and H. H. WICKWIRE, M's. P. P.

THE last issue of the *Canadian Magazine*, in an article on short story writers of the Dominion, devotes considerable space to the life and works of MR. J. MACDONALD OXLEY, B. A., of this University. Mr. Oxley, who is one of Dalhousie's warmest friends, has the GAZETTE'S congratulations on the success he has already achieved in the world of letters.

MR. T. F. WEST, B. A., '91, has "been gone and done it," as the following clipping from a P. E. I. paper shows:—"At the manse, Belfast, by the Rev. A. McLean Sincclair, T. F. West, B. A., to Bertha, eldest daughter of Mr. Robert Longard." The GAZETTE extends congratulations and best wishes for long life to Mr. and Mrs. West.

IT is with deep regret that we learn of the death at St. Catherine's P. E. I., of one of our most promising graduates, RODERICK MCNEIL, B. A., of the class of '92. Mr. McNeil, on leaving college, engaged in teaching for a time but ill-health compelled him, some months ago, to retire from active work. His old class-mates and fellow students will hear with great sorrow the news of his early decease. To the bereaved friends the GAZETTE extends the heartfelt sympathy of the whole college.

New Books.

SABLE ISLAND: ITS HISTORY AND PHENOMENA. By the Rev. George Patterson, D. D., F. R. S. C. Halifax, Knight & Co., 1894.

This is a most interesting description of Sable Island, tracing its history from the earliest times down to the present, and setting forth the remarkable phenomena which make it the "graveyard of the Atlantic." Apart from the historical and scientific value of this work, Dr. Patterson can claim credit for giving us an account of adventuresome life on the island, of terrific storms, terrible wrecks, and daring deeds of heroism, that will be as interesting to the reader as the most racy novel published.

The book is divided into eight sections, the general scope of which can be seen by their captions: I. Description of the Island; II. Early notices of Sable Island, 1500—1600; III. From the removal of LaRoche's colonists till the establishment of the first life-saving station, 1601—1801; IV. First relief establishment on the Island, 1801—1809; V. History of relief establishment, continued, 1809—1848; VI. Life on the Island—Superintendency of M. D. McKenna, 1848—1855; VII. To the present time, 1855—1894; VIII. Physical history of the Island and its probable future. In addition, there is an excellent map of the island, and three appendices, one of which gives a complete list of the known wrecks on the island since the founding of the Government relief establishment, December, 1801.

The island is now twenty-one miles long and one mile broad. It has, however, rapidly decreased in size. In the year 1800 it was fully double its present size, its length then being forty miles, and its breadth two and a half miles. According to calculations made by Mr. S. D. Macdonald, the island three hundred years ago would have been two hundred miles long and the hills upon it eight hundred feet high. A light house built at the west end in 1873 had ten years later to be removed one mile further east,

owing to the encroaching of the sea. In 1888 it had again to be removed further eastward, this time two miles, and owing to the same cause it must ere long be again removed. This shows us the rapidity with which the island is giving way before the inroads of currents and storms. At the present rate it can only be a matter of little more than half a century before it will disappear altogether. Then a serious problem will have to be faced. As Dr. Patterson says in the closing sections: "If its deep foundations could be uprooted or sunk in the fathomless depths of the ocean, we might rejoice. But, alas! the removal of the land would be to leave for a lengthened period only shoals and sand-banks, such as the present bars exhibit, more fatal to vessels and lives than the island itself can be now. When that happens there will be no humane establishment to receive wrecked mariners reaching land, indeed there will be no land to reach." Hence the importance of immediately providing some remedy for this state of affairs.

The island is composed almost entirely of sand. Bars stretch for miles away to the east and to the west, over which the sea breaks continually. It is only on rare occasions that landing can be effected at all. Dense fog hangs round the island, both winter and summer. Storms of terrible violence are prevalent, and liable to spring up at any moment. The number of known wrecks is very large, but yet is probably greatly exceeded by those that are not known, except it may be sometimes by the floating ashore of a lifeless body, of some piece of rigging, or a part of a cargo. Thanks to the efficient life-saving apparatus, of all the wrecks that have lately happened on the island, there has been little loss of life. But the great bars stretching east and west prove destruction to many a stout ship and gallant crew.

All attempts to make the island productive have failed. Trees were planted, but died within a few years. Grains will not grow. A coarse grass forms pasture for the herds of the "Sable Island ponies" that roam at large. For a number of years they could make potatoes grow only to be as large as walnuts, but lately owing to careful cultivation the size has been much enlarged. It is amusing to read of the efforts made to introduce animals to the island. First there were the horses, which became somewhat stunted, but very hardy. The government sent sheep, but owing to the prevalence of a poisonous plant they died. Hogs were taken there, but the severity of the winter killed them. The cattle which were brought got the horn distemper. English rabbits were brought there and thrived. But colonies of rats came from wrecked vessels. First they ate so much of the provisions as to threaten a famine; then they commenced at the rabbits. To kill the rats the government sent out cats. After the rats had all disappeared, the cats turned to the rabbits that were left and finished them. Dogs were then imported to make away with the cats. Then the government sent a new lot of rabbits. But there came one day a lot of snowy owls, and the temptations of "rabbit pie" proved too strong to be resisted. Verily Sable Island, is a most unfortunate island in more ways than one.

As regards the existing state of affairs there, Dr. Patterson says:—"There are now altogether five stations 1. The main station, about four miles from the west end, where the Superintendent and six men reside. . . . Here are kept metallic life-boats, with a complete rocket apparatus. . . . 2. The west end light-house, where reside the keeper and his assistant. 3. The central station, about the middle of the island, where is a flagstaff, and two boatmen. 4. The station at the foot of the lake, where is a flagstaff, and where two boatmen reside; and 5, the east end light-house, where reside the light-house keeper, his assistant, and two boatmen. Here is a life-boat. There are usually two or three extra men. The whole staff consists thus of about eighteen men, besides the superintendent. With the families, the number of souls resident is usually between forty-five and fifty. These stations are now all connected by telephone."

This most interesting and instructive work may be ordered through any bookseller or obtained direct from the author, New Glasgow. A copy has been presented to the Canadian Corner of the Library.

Law Department.

AS there can be only one of our number who will have the chance of speaking words of valedictory to you personally, let us take the opportunity here to say just a word of farewell to those we are leaving behind us. Our experiences, speaking as the different elements of a class, have been at least varied, and may be a little advice will not be amiss. There may be some among you who think it would be easier to tread the primrose paths of dalliance than the thornier one of thoroughness, but remember "Punch's" advice—Don't. Another thing, avoid the insinuating but deadly "Headnote." There have been more good and true men fallen victims to the headnote than to drink. Don't believe the words of the opera, "the easiest way's the best"; in this case it's not. Be faithful and search for principles, and when your time of trial comes, you will be able to go through it without that awful feeling in the pit of the stomach which comes to the lazy man on examination morn. Good-bye, boys, there is a lot of good fellows among you: and if in time ahead of us we should stroll into the Library and ask for a chew, may our faith in you not be ill founded.

THE Law Department is somewhat poorly represented in this issue, as the students and editors have been too busy grappling with the Exam. god to devote time to even such an important matter as the GAZETTE. Now the exams. are over, and we are at rest, if not at peace. We may remark that the examinations this year, taking everything into consideration, were unusually difficult; particularly Evidence and Equity. Let us hope that if the examiners do put their hands to the "plough," they may look back. The session has, on the whole, been an average one. The lecturers have attended with fair regularity, and the students have done the same. The course on Conveyancing, given this year for the first time, has been exceedingly satisfactory; and the students send after Mr. Ritchie, now on his way to Europe, their best wishes for a pleasant vacation and safe return. To our beloved Dean, who leaves one sphere of his labors only to hurry into another, and one where his personality is equally felt, we wish a successful session, and a safe return in the coming struggle at the polls.

IT may be well to consider here how far the Law Library is a success as to the purpose for which it is intended. The Library is supposed to be a place where the Law student has to do about three-quarters of his studying, and the question is, can he do it well there? To study well, there must be next to absolute quietness, for the best work is only accomplished when the whole attention is given to what one is working at. Now, do we have that in our Library? I fear it cannot be answered in the affirmative. A few students drop in there whenever they have nothing to do, and spend the time in conversation with somebody who is not very particular about working. The Library is made a rendezvous for idle students, who go there when they have nothing else to do. This is not as it should be, and stricter regulations should be enforced, or some remedy offered. The grievance is not the fault of the librarian, who often strives good-naturedly to subdue the noise, but very often unsuccessfully. But the grievance is to be attributed to three or four noisy students, who think that they are privileged beings, and the Library only exists for them, and only contains them. The unnecessary noise is very apparent when coming from the Arts Library into the Law Library. In the Arts Library absolute quietness prevails,—very often you could hear a pin drop,—and those that go there go with the intention of studying. Should there be the least noise, they are made to understand that they will have to go out or be quiet. In the Law Library, where it should be most strict if anything,—as the student is compelled to study there, whereas it is not so necessary in the Arts,—there is a continual murmur going on all the time. Now what is the remedy? It lays a good deal with the students themselves, and much more with the Faculty in enforcing the regulations of the Library. We have heard rumours of a new side-room off the Library, where the students can assemble when they want to talk. This might be a remedy. At any rate, it would be no harm to try it as a step in the way of getting some remedy. Certainly there is a grievance, felt by the majority of the students, which is evidenced by many of the best students going in offices in the city in order to get the quietness of the evening to do their work in. The question is, what is the remedy?

ABOUT THE LAW SCHOOL.

THE examination on Procedure will be held on March 15th.

MR. CHARLES A. McLEAN, B.A., has been elected valedictorian of the Graduating Class in Law.

THE results of the examinations are expected to be posted about March 3rd, two or three days too late for this issue of the GAZETTE, but the next issue will contain full reports.

THE students were very sorry to hear of the sudden death of Professor Ritchie's sister, Mrs. D. H. Muir, of Truro, N. S., and sincerely sympathize with him in his sad bereavement.

THE Graduating Class were photographed at Notman's this year. We hope the picture will be as good as that of the class last year, and that they will not forget to leave us one to adorn the Mock Parliament rooms.

ABOUT a week before the examinations, L. B. CROSBY, who was to graduate this year, caused a startling sensation throughout the whole College, by departing for home. Without a word to anyone as to his intentions, he quietly slipped off and left his astonished class-mates to speculate as to the cause. We have since learned from good authority that he is going to preach, and that Guysboro will be his starting place.

The only complaint heard about the examinations was that Sales and Equity came on the same day. This furnished a cause for universal grumbling, that two of the heaviest subjects should come together on the same day. We hope that the Faculty, in arranging the time table after this, will have it to suit the majority, and if two exams. must come on one day, they will not put the two heaviest together.

ORIGIN, DEVELOPMENT AND ADVANTAGES OF TRIAL BY JURY.

II.

HAVING considered the origin and development of jury trials, let us discuss the merits of this ever-favourite part of the English legal system. Let us glance briefly at any reforms that have been proposed, and why any reforms should be proposed at all to this apparently fully satisfactory system.

First, let us consider the jury in criminal cases, and then in civil cases.

In criminal cases we have two juries, the Grand and Petit. The duty of the former is mostly to make an accusation, of the latter to try the prisoner after an accusation is made. The Grand Jury consists of from twelve to twenty-three "good and lawful men of the country," summoned by the Crown to consider whether a suspected offender should be put on his trial or not. They are the accusing jury as distinguished from the petit or trying jury. The Grand Jury is an old institution, dating from before the Conquest. When the justices in eyre paid their

periodical visits to the counties they caused to be summoned before them twelve knights or other good and lawful men, and charged them upon their oaths to inquire respecting crimes and offences committed within their districts, so that they might be ready to present to the court the suspected persons at a future day fixed by the justices. And to prevent persons being put upon their trial owing to false and malicious accusations, and to gratify private revenge. It was enacted in the reign of Edward III that, "no man be put to answer without presentment before justices, or matter of record, or by due process or writ original, according to the old law of the land." Thus we see that the function of the Grand Jury is merely to accuse, and we are not much surprised at the frequent expression of opinion of late years, that the preliminary proceeding by Grand Jury is useless and ought to be abolished, and some formal prosecutor put in its place. These opinions have not been given by any great reformers who used their efforts to bring about a change; but it seems quite probable that we will see a change in this respect before very much longer. For although it ought to be a pleasure for the "good and lawful men of the country" to attend on such occasions and take part in the great judicial drama and see justice administered in the purest and enlightened form; still it is not always so. The good and lawful men called upon to fulfil this duty do not consist principally of "the landed gentry and magistrates of the county," and we fear it is not always the pleasure that it might seem to be compelled to leave their every day work and farm and spend even so little time in travelling back and forth and staying at the scene of the court. And although we believe the Grand Jury can often baffle the attempts of malevolence, and save many an innocent man from the shame and degradation of a trial at the felon's bar: still we believe their duty can be fulfilled by a formal prosecutor whose duty would be to examine the cases of all offenders sent up by committing magistrates and present "no bill or a "true bill" as the case may be. With a formal prosecutor in the nature of a judge much benefit would arise; for the necessity of attendance of these twenty-three "good and lawful men of the country" would be done away with, and although this institution is claimed as a safeguard to the liberty of the subject, still it cannot be denied that justice miscarries in certain cases with a Grand Jury in which it would not with a public prosecutor. Where the accused is of a high social standing the sympathy of the jury is generally on his side, and they are apt to find "no bill" against many a guilty offender. I once knew a case where a Grand Jury consisting of twelve men brought in a finding of "no bill," which it was said was brought about by the influence of one man who was held in very high estimate by his fellow-men, but had a strong personal feeling of ill-will against the prosecuting solicitor, and so influential was he among his fellow-men that, contrary to all expectations, there was a finding of "no bill." It is hard to see why a public prosecutor, would not, satisfactory to all concerned, fulfil the office of the Grand Jury.

As to the Petit Jury in criminal cases, the trying jury, as distinguished from the accusing jury, there can be no question of its utility. That an offender should be tried for his crime, often on a question of life and death, by his fellow-countrymen, that a suspected culprit should be tried by his peers is a system which may well merit our approbation, and which points out a proverbial characteristic of the English race—love for

fair play, and abhorrence of injustice. The privilege of being tried by one's fellow-countrymen, has been tenaciously claimed by Englishmen throughout the world as one of the most effective safeguards for the liberty of the subject, and for very many centuries has always been the right of an accused. No reform has ever been suggested to take the place of the petit jury in criminal cases, and if it should be it would not be listened to, for it is a privilege of the people firmly established, and it is here to stay.

In regard to Petit Juries in civil cases there is not the same firmness of opinion as in criminal cases, and discussions and opinions are quite common that we could do without this part of a trial and the judges could fulfil its office. In civil cases, they say, there is not the same need of a jury, and the judge being more experienced in "sizing up" a witness can tell better whether he is telling the truth, and so are more competent to decide questions of fact. Besides, they say, the issue in civil cases not being one on which the liberty of the subject depends, as in criminal cases, can safely be entrusted to the decision of a judge.

But we must not suppose that in criminal cases alone the advantages of jury trials appear. The very essence of the jury trial is its principle of fairness. The right of being tried by his equals, that is, his fellow-citizens, taken indiscriminately from the mass, who feel neither malice nor favour, but simply decide according to what in their conscience they believe to be the truth, gives every man a conviction that he will be dealt with impartially, and inspires him with the wish to mete out to others the same measure of equity that is dealt to himself. In civil cases as well as criminal this beneficial influence appears. M. de Tocqueville in his able and philosophical work, "De la Democratie en Amerique," thinks that the jury system, if limited solely to criminal trials, is always in peril; and the reasons he gives for this opinion are well worthy of consideration. To quote from him he says: "In that case the people see it in operation only at intervals, and in particular cases; they are accustomed to dispense with it in the ordinary affairs of life, and look upon it merely as a means, and not the sole means of obtaining justice. But when it embraces civil actions it is constantly before their eyes and affects all their interests. It penetrates into the the usages of life, and so habituates the minds of men to its forms, that they, so to speak, confound it with the very idea of justice." "The jury," he continues, "and especially the civil jury, serve to imbue the minds of the citizens of a country with a part of the qualities and character of a judge; and this is the best mode of preparing them for freedom. It spreads amongst all classes a respect for the decisions of the law. It teaches them the practice of equitable dealing. Each man in judging his neighbor thinks that he may be also judged in his turn. This is in an especial manner true of the civil jury; for altho' hardly anyone fears lest he may become the object of a criminal prosecution, everybody may be engaged in a law suit. It teaches every man not to shrink from the responsibility attaching to his own acts; and this gives a manly character without which there is no political virtue. It clothes every citizen with a kind of magisterial office. It makes all feel that they have duties to fulfil towards society, and that they take a part in the government. It forces men to occupy themselves with something else than their own affairs, and thus combats that individual selfishness which is, as it were, the rust of the community." Such are some of the advantages which, according to the view of this profound thinker, result from trial by jury in civil cases.

(To be continued.)

Medical Department.

THE recent reduction of fees made by the faculty is a move in the right direction, for by the raising of the fees for some subjects and the addition of new ones the aggregate yearly fees have been gradually rising until they have reached a total which differs very little from that of the largest medical colleges on the continent.

There are some disadvantages which a student of the Halifax Medical College has to contend against, which, although they may not deter him from becoming well grounded in his profession, must be compensated for by a lessening of his expenses or he will go elsewhere. While the cost of a course here is as great as at the larger and more widely known colleges our numbers will be small.

Under the new arrangement a student can pay the fees for the entire course by one payment of two hundred and fifty dollars, two payments of one hundred and thirty dollars each, or three of ninety dollars each. This affords a reduction for the four years course of from eighty to one hundred dollars, and will, no doubt, have the effect of greatly increasing the number of students attending this college.

STUDENTS' MEDICAL SOCIETY.

OWING to unfavorable weather and a little delay in getting to work after the Christmas vacation, no meeting of this society was held until the evening of January 25th, when Dr. Cogswell, an ex-president of the society, delivered an address on the "History of Medical Surgery." The doctor, in a pleasing and instructing way, briefly traced the science of medical surgery from the ancient Egyptian school down to modern times, dwelling particularly on the Grecian school founded by the followers of Æsculapius. He comforted his hearers with the assurance that while it might not be permitted all to shine as some of the great men he had mentioned had shone, yet the medical practitioner in his own sphere, small though it may be, can surround himself with the aroma of an industrious, conscientious and well spent life.

Perhaps few of the subjects on the programme for the session of 1894-95, had been looked forward to with more pleasure and anticipation than the one entitled "Student life in Edinburgh,"

by Dr. Stewart. This lecture was given on the evening of February 1st, in the presence of a large number of students from all the faculties. The Doctor's address opened with a description of Edinburgh, and its surroundings, as it appeared to the student when first he catches sight of the ancient town. He spoke of the feelings that should characterize the student on entering university life, and his advice on this point was excellent. The account of the ways and habits of students at the old university was much enjoyed. If in future Dr. Stewart should favor the society with a paper he may be sure of a hearty welcome.

On the evening of February 15th Dr. Silver's address on "Food and Feeding" was presented. The doctor is a general favorite and began his lecture amid prolonged applause. He said that food and feeding were matters that did not receive, in this country, the amount of attention that their importance would warrant. The sense of taste should be as well cultivated as those of sight or hearing. This country is perhaps as healthy as any, yet indigestion is a very common disease, owing in a great measure to the manner in which the food is prepared. Cooking, he said, may have a great part in the regeneration of the nation, that the way in which food had been cooked had a great deal to do with the partaking of alcohol. Dr. Silver's lecture was much enjoyed.

KISSING AS A CURE FOR DYSPEPSIA.

SOME months ago we called attention to an attempt on the part of the Orange (New Jersey) Board of Health to "put down" kissing as a London magistrate of bygone days tried to "put down" suicide. While allowing that in kissing it might sometimes happen that *medio de fonto leporum surgit amari aliquid* in the form of inoculable disease, we ventured to back human nature against hygiene. The matter excited a good deal of interest at the time, and the possibility of infection being conveyed by the lips has, we hope, been impressed on the public mind to an extent sufficient at least to protect children against the kisses of amiable but tuberculous strangers. *Cassel's Saturday Journal* has thought it worth while to get the opinions of "several leading physicians" on the subject. The replies of these authorities are interesting, but we have not space to deal with them in detail. Sir William Moore and Mr. H. A. Reeves look at the question from a thoroughly scientific point of view; and Dr. Norman Kerr, while "trusting that kissing will last as long as the world standeth," is also fain to admit its possible danger. On the other hand, Sir Benjamin Ward Richardson has "never seen an instance of affirmative evidence on this point;" and Mrs. Louise Atkins, while admitting that local disease may be transmitted by kissing, is doubtful about the communicability of general

diseases. Sir Richard Quain has, it seems, paid no attention to the spread of microbes by kissing, being fully occupied, it may be presumed, with less frivolous matters. Decidedly the most interesting reply, however, is that vouchsafed by Dr. A. E. Bridger. This "leading physician" expresses the opinion that "in the act of kissing we encounter only beneficent organisms." He adds that "the advantages of kissing outweigh its infinitesimal risk, for it provides us with microbes useful for digestion." We must congratulate Dr. Bridger on having discovered a remedy for dyspepsia, which has at any rate the merit of acting *jucunde*. His teaching can hardly fail to make kissing even more popular than it is. It will probably be found that the "beneficent organisms" required flourish in greatest abundance on the lips of the young and comely, and in carrying out the treatment sufferers will doubtless be eager to abjure the vile heresy of homœopathy by kissing only persons of the opposite sex. The dose of "microbes useful for digestion" will be cheerfully taken both before and after meals, and at other times *pro re nata*. Here is a new opening for commercial enterprise. There is pretty sure to be a run on "microbes useful for digestion." Could not stock farms of suitable subjects be formed where the "beneficent organisms" might be raised under the most favourable conditions, so as to ensure a constant supply of high quality? If this vision were fulfilled it might come to pass that mankind might be delivered from the dragon of dyspepsia, which now levies so heavy a tribute from us.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

FOOTBALL AND ALBUMINURIA.

DR. MACFARLANE, of the Albany (New York) Medical College, has recently made a series of observations on the urine of football players which are of considerable interest, showing that in the urine passed immediately after a game albumen and tube casts were present in every one of the twenty players examined. It is well known that after severe exercise, long marches, or severe runs, albuminuria has pretty often been found; and, in proportion as one accepts the results of the more refined and delicate tests, so does the presence of small quantities of albumen in the urine seem to pass the boundary between pathology and physiology, and tend to appear as a not uncommon occasional constituent. In these cases of Dr. Macfarlane's the test employed was Heller's test, with cold nitric acid; and, in the majority of them, the line of opacity was very well marked, in most of them being from one-sixteenth to a quarter of an inch in thickness. The specific gravity in five cases only was above 1025, and in no case above 1030. Sugar was absent in all cases. The striking thing, however was the presence of tube casts, which were found in every case, mostly of the granular, but sometimes

of the hyaline, variety; and in a few cases blood casts. There was blood in the urine in several cases, besides those in which there were blood casts. Finally, Dr. Macfarlane propounds two questions: (1) Can such a condition be repeated twice or oftener a week without doing to the kidneys some damage, which, although it may go for years unrecognized, will eventually lead to serious renal change? (2) Is it not dangerous for men whose kidneys may have been weakened by previous disease—as scarlet fever—to subject themselves to such a violent strain? These questions can be answered only by prolonged and careful observations, but there is no doubt that the subject opened up is one of considerable interest and importance.—*Brit. Med. Journal*.

MEDICAL BRIEFS.

IT is currently reported that W. H. has been struck out of the nurse's books. The other half of the society can't see through this.

HEARD at V. G. H. "Ha M— you're at it again, are you? That's the fourth time I've caught you in there to-day."

WE think the lecturer in Bacteriology and Hygiene should remember that he is not always looking through a high power microscope when he undertakes to demonstrate the faults of one of the members of the class in so unbecoming a manner.

THE Whisker Club met Thursday, February 21st. Propositions for membership for Dickie was read. Pres. Gillespie recommended that the proposition be given the three months hoist, and that a committee be appointed to examine the candidate's chin daily and report any new arrivals.

THE Freshman class this year represent various avocations, and are in fact a motley crowd. Among others we might mention a graduate of the black jab school, two defunct theologues, two insane hospital nurses, a Chicago detective, two carpenters, a grocer, a kleptomaniac, and several bushwhackers.

O TEMPORA! O mores! B—t, *bete noir* of the Freshman class, has developed another phase of his unquestionably recognized cheek, the boys present when parts were allotted on the last subject will pardon the reference to Cicero. B—t, you should be banished to Van Dieman's Land where after 20 years sojourn you might be better qualified to determine the position held by your superiors.

FRESHMAN.—Say doctor, is there any danger of being poisoned by whisker dye?

DOCTOR.—I think not, but why do you ask?

FRESHMAN.—Oh! for nothing in particular, except that the night I went to the Liberal Smoking Concert I put an extra dose on my mustache and I felt very ill next morning.

STUDENT.—"Hullo D. L. are you going to the lecture in Anatomy to-day?"

D. L.—"Is *he* going to quiz to-day?"

STUDENT.—"No."

D. L.—"Are you *sure*?"

STUDENT.—"Yes, yes."

D. L.—"Then I guess I'll go."

"DOCTOREIN."—Wanted a handy and convenient name for "lady doctor." A discussion having for its aim the discovery of an appropriate title to take the place of the awkward terms, "lady doctor," "woman doctor," "female practitioner," etc., has been started in the *Glasgow Daily Herald*. "Doctor" indicates the male practitioner; "doctress," is felt to be inadmissible. "Doctorein," plainly of quasi-German parentage, is suggested. "Doctorein Mary Walker" would be distinctive enough, but slightly clumsy and un-English.

BUT THE CAT CAME BACK.

THERE was a young man named L.
Whom this episode befell,
One night for a lark
He went out about dark
To see if the cat was well.

The landlady hearing a scream
Hastened at once to the scene.
And with great surprise
Beheld with her eyes
Mr. L. with a long cudgereen.

Sometimes he would *Miss* the cat,
But again he would *Lie* the cat.
Until by the corner aside
His eye the landlady espied
Looking awfully hard at his "hat."

The landlady was wild with despair,
Told our hero she'd pull out his hair,
While the girls on the street
Looked awfully sweet
At Jimmy away up in the air.

He very soon slid to the ground
By a ladder near that he found,
And there on the street
Told a yarn than was meet
To bring the landlady around.

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