

The Dalhousie Gazette

FOUNDED 1869

VOL. L

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No. 2

THE DALHOUSIE GAZETTE

— FOUNDED 1869 —

ISSUED WEEKLY. ONE DOLLAR PER YEAR.

Business Manager.....K. A. BAIRD
45 LeMarchant Street.

Editor.....J. H. MITCHELL

Associate Editors—Miss E. NICHOLS, Miss J. CAMP-
BELL, Miss TATTRIE, JAMES POWER.

All subscriptions and advertising rates payable to
the BUSINESS MANAGER.

The acting editor regrets that much unfavourable comment was occasioned by an article in the last issue of the old volume. It was written in sincerity with no intent to offend. We can assure our readers that henceforth the Gazette may be read at any meeting of the Delta Gamma without creating the slightest embarrassment.

THAT Y. M. C. A. BUDGET.

Some Dalhousie students, not very closely in touch with Y. M. C. A. work, have perhaps not unreasonably wondered about two items on the financial statement.

One is an item of \$60.00 for President's expenses and loss of earnings during the two weeks spent in Halifax before college opened. In better times Dalhousie Y. M. C. A. had a part-time secretary, and paid his salary. For the last two years we have done without a secretary, and asked the president to return about two weeks early, to help both new and former students to get suitable board, and assist in any other way possible. This was especially necessary this year on account of the difficulty of getting board and the closing of Pine Hill and Forest Hall. Any doubt as to the amount required to reimburse him for his loss by this work can be set at rest by counting up two or three weeks' salary in the mission field, adding the price of board in Halifax for the same period, as well as railway fare, and other necessary expenses, and remembering that there has not been a cent of this amount repaid to the president yet this year.

The other item is a working fund of \$100.00. Two years ago the Association outlay was very heavy on account of moving into new quarters at Studley. At the same time the income was less, because a number of students and faculty members felt it necessary to decrease their subscriptions, having given considerable to the support of a Dalhousie secretary engaged in military work at the Armouries. A surplus of \$200.00 then existing, was drawn upon to meet current expenses. This year expenses are small, and Dalhousians are asked to restore part of the surplus, so that the treasurers of other years may not find it necessary to keep creditors waiting, or else advance the Association's expenses out of their own funds.

—K. A. Baird, Treas. Y. M. C.

ANOTHER BRICKBAT.

Dear Editor:

Undated.

In a recent issue of the Gazette, dated Dec. 15, 1917, I note the following sentence: "The Gazette should be the mouth-piece of the student body; if you are a student, make yourself heard in the pages of the Gazette." In accordance with that, I wish to protest against an article which appeared in the same number under the signature, Adolph. It is bad enough to find Adolph filling the pages of the Gazette with silly twaddle, presumably poetry but which would nauseate the average school boy. However, the readers of the Gazette might accept the reason on the front page that the editors had only seven months in which to prepare for the issue and therefore must use that which "lay nearest at hand." No such explanation or apology can suffice for the unjust and abusive "Spasm" of Adolph's which slanders half human race, and makes all members of the other half who happens to read it blush for shame, except those unfortunate individuals (few in number, we hope, and perhaps more to be pitied than blamed); from whose character such redeeming qualities have been omitted entirely. Such an article as Adolph's is a disgrace to the Gazette and its insertion will be deplored by all right thinking and decent minded Dalhousians.

F. J. M.

(Florence Murray).

(Miss Murray speaks of justice. If she had troubled to read the Gazette carefully, she would have discovered that the present editors had **exactly three weeks to bring out two issues.** Moreover the offensive article does not attack womanhood in general, but a class, which no matter how tightly Miss Murray may close her eyes, does exist in our larger cities.)

WANTED A TELEPHONE.

What has happened to the telephone that used to be in the Murray Homestead? At present students are cut off from communication with the outside world unless they can wheedle themselves into the good graces of Miss Harris, and, at that, the office does not provide the seclusion so necessary to some conversations. Dear students council, won't you please give us back our telephone, so that our soul-mates may occasionally be able to hear the music of our voices?

NOTICE.

Will all Dalhousians who helped at the time of the explosion kindly send their names to Dr. McMechan with a brief account of their experiences.

Watch the notice board for news of the conference.

TO CONTRIBUTORS.

The present needs of the Gazette are:
1. Short articles not exceeding 400 words on topics of college and general interest.

2. Light and serious verse, if possible less than sixteen lines.

3. News of the Alumni and Dalhousians in the service.

4. Anecdotes, jokes and epigrams, preferably but not necessarily of the University.

N. B.—The editorial privilege of making slight alteration is retained. Rejection of manuscripts does not imply lack of merit, but that they are not adapted to immediate needs.

All contributions must be signed with name and pseudonym.

NOTES.

Roger Munnis, '18, recently had three weeks leave in London.

Friday, February 1st, the freshman held a sleigh drive returning to Mrs. James Slayter's for supper. Mrs. Murray MacNeil, most popular of chaperones, accompanied them.

Mrs. Willits, daughter of Professor MacMechan, is expected home from England.

The freshettes have formed their own particular Relief Fund.

Mrs. McNeil and ten helpers have undertaken the preparation of sphagnum moss in the Science Building for the coming month.

A DALHOUSIE DRAMATIST.

Miss Zillah MacDonald, who used to be connected with Dalhousie, has turned her versatile pen to playwrighting. Her dramatisation of Stevenson's "Markheim," a tragedy in a clock shop, was recently produced in New York by the Morningside Players, one of the semi-amateur organisations which have done so much to subordinate the clap-trap product of the commercial boards to the drama of ideas. The New York Herald says: "Markheim . . . was the most interesting of the plays" and the Evening Post: "A deft dramatisation of Stevenson's Markheim . . . was the best of a series of one act plays presented at the Comedy Theatre by the Morningside Players, a group recruited mainly from Columbia University. The dramatisation did full justice to the spirit of the story, was effectively concise, and showed in its introductory lines a skillful originality on the part of the adaptor, Zillah K. MacDonald."

It is unnecessary to add to these press comments. The pantomime which forms an important part of the piece is cleverly and vividly managed. The stage direction, and scene plot, usually so dull, make interesting reading. In narrating the grim tale of a murder and its consequences, Miss MacDonald has avoided the morbid and melodramatic, creating an atmosphere of tense and gripping realism.

ANSWERS TO THE ANXIOUS.

(Miss Anastasia Adamsapple, whose knowledge ranges from Byzantine pin-cushions to the Schnitzlerian theory of wife-beating, has engaged as her assistants those intrepid scandal-mongers, The Terrible Three. With their help, Dalhousie will soon be purged of all blemishes.)

Dear Miss Adamsapple:—

The other evening, when Mr. W-ils, who was occupying my mission field, was away, I rang up his lady friend without any irreligious intent, and asked her to come on a walking party.

Since his return, I have been informed that he is about to commence legal proceedings against me for abduction. Was my action an indictable offence? What course should I pursue? W. H. F-r-s-th.

A.—This is a serious offence, especially if the young lady was an infant. I should suggest a brick which may be obtained from the Reconstruction Co. If one is not sufficient, two will do the trick.

Actio personalis moritur cum persona.

Dear Madam:—

A certain dental student, who comes from an institution in Antigonish, is affirmed to have said: "Dalhousie is composed of the greatest collection of Rubes I ever saw!" What do you think of this? Xerxes.

A.—Coming from Antigonish, he probably said: "I ever seen." Such an individual and his utterances are not worthy of consideration. I would suggest that he return to the convivial circle whence he tore himself with such evident anguish.

Dear Healer of Broken Hearts:—

Last year I was paying attention to a young lady from New Brunswick, whose caravanserai was the H. L. C. This year, alack, a fair-haired Halifax Apollo has interfered and consequently I no longer traverse Morris street every Saturday evening. I feel so badly over this! What shall I do? Sorrowful Lover.

A.—I can appreciate your emotions. My Pom once had whooping cough. Moreover, this same Brunswick street swain has wrecked many a happy home. I would advise you to recover from the shock if possible, and try to do better next time. *Volenti voce fit injuria.*

OMENS.

Iliad XII. 237-243.

You bid me trust in strong-winged birds
For whom I have no heed or care,
Fly they on the right to the morn and the sun.

Fly they on the left to the night and the mist
Let us bow to the will of Jove the almighty,
Who reigneth supreme over men and the gods.

Guarding our country is the omen of omens
for us. —An old Dalhousian.

MARIANA MARRIED.

She held a broken flower pot,
She wore a kimona, and all
Her hair was caught up in a knot.
Her green eyes dwelt upon the hall,
But, though the day dawned grim and strange,

She heard no lifting of the latch,
Nor glimpsed the flickering of a match
Trying to get the key-hole's range.
She said: "I am weary, weary,
He cometh not," she said;
But when he came, with perfect aim,
She hit him on the head.

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Total Assets, - - - 335,000,000

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JACK LONDON.

An appreciation by V. C. M.

Jack London was a virile novelist who had travelled widely and experienced much of life in many out of the way places and among many peoples. Entirely self-taught, he became a man of letters and a popular author, dying in his early thirties with nearly forty completed books to his credit. Of these, some twenty are in his best style; big, unconventional stories, unique in plot, and superbly written.

The foremost critics admit that London was absolutely perfect in the mere mechanics of his art. His books are scientifically constructed—each part in proportion to the whole—so that they never falter in their dramatic movement from beginning to close. Beneath the surface of each stirring narrative is a big, under-running motif which keeps pace with the superficial plot without ever interrupting or clogging its action. It is this sub-current of thought which suggests and defines the ultimate object and meaning of each story.

A terse, powerful, and vivid realist, London has been criticised for exaggeration and for his alleged dilution on "red-blooded men". It will be sufficient to note that his characters are usually subjected to the revealing test of peril and violence because the dominating theme demands it and that force is always quickly followed by beauty. The objectionable term, "red blood," which he really used sparingly, has lately become one of common use. All of London's stories are shot through with brilliant, and colorful passages. Sympathy, pathos and insight he has in full; real humour he lacks to some extent.

Powerful and dramatic situations bulk large in Jack London's novels. Take for instance the Professor in the "Star Rover," who, while helpless in a straight-jacket learns to grow oblivious to the things of this earth, and to roam down the ages experiencing the greatest of adventures. Or again, place a delicate woman and an aesthetic man on board a floating hell commanded by the "Sea Wolf," a man of tremendous strength of mind and body, who believes his right is only bounded by his might, and who is utterly ruthless and scornful of all convention or law; surely this is full of possibilities.

It is not true that his characters do not develop with the story. The truth of this denial may be seen in "Martin Eden," where an ignorant sailor, for the love of an idealised woman, heroically struggles for fame as an author, only to lose her in the hour of triumph. This progress from ignorance and obscurity to knowledge and fame is reflected at every stage by a corresponding growth and change in his personality.

London's graphic tales of both the serious and lighter sides of Alaskan life—see "Love of Life" and "Smoke Bellew"—are perhaps his favorite works. The book which first made his name was "The Call of the Wild," a human and poignant story of the Newfoundland dog who returned to Nature. This is considered the best dog narrative in English and is possibly his masterpiece. It was a curious coincidence that the very last work of his pen was another dog story, "Jerry," second only to its predecessor in merit. With London's passing, C. G. D. Roberts has lost his only rival in the portrayal of animal life.

It may add zest to the perusal of these works to know that many portions of them

THE Y. M. C. A. NEEDS \$200.00.
DON'T GIVE WHAT YOU CAN AFFORD.
GIVE WHAT YOU CAN'T AFFORD.

The only and original secretary of the D. A. K. A. ventures to suggest that you support the Y. M. C. A. financially as well as by your personal activity.

THE FORUM.

(A column for the expression of undergraduate opinion.)

A member of the Faculty has suggested that Class Day should be abolished. Of recent years it has been a banal, nearly meaningless ceremony, poorly attended, the only use of which is to gratify the vanity of a few students. The time and expenditure could be better devoted to a purely social gathering, instead of providing a pitiful demonstration of the feebleness of Dalhousie college spirit. The Gazette would welcome short letters on this subject, to be published in The Forum in a future issue.

What is to be done with the three hundred dollars which was to have been spent for rink night? Several suggestions have been made. The amount might be added to the already substantial Malcolm Memorial Fund for athletic purposes, a fuller account of which will appear in a later issue. Another popular idea is that a portion of this sum should be devoted to the provision of a decent smoking room in the Medical College. The present Nicotian Salon ranks in point of comfort with a dug-out, the odds being in favour of the latter. The furniture is simple to a fault. The atmosphere is arctic. A very little money could easily transform it into something like a comfortable apartment, and less like the morgue.

The formation of a society for the purification of literature is rumoured at Dalhousie. The planks in its platform are:

a. The lynching of the Gazette Editor.
b. The exclusion from the library of Shakespeare, the early and Elizabethan dramatists, Chaucer, Shaw, and Wilde, to be replaced by the admirable efforts of Harold Bell Wright, Myrtle Reed, etc.
c. Dr. McMechan will be requested to remove Marlowe, Dryden, Byron, and Browning from his curriculum, and substitute Edgar Guest and Ella Wheeler Wilcox.

HUMOUR IN TRAGEDY.

Irate housewife summoned to the door by a ring at the bell, and seeing it crash in with a darkey on top of it: "You'll pay for this—" (N. B.—Ed.—She said more but we must consider the ladies).

Over the Assembly Hall of the H. C. A., a few minutes after nine in the morning of Dec. 6th, there floated the melodious strains of "Peace, Perfect Peace."

have had their counterparts in the author's life; as for his instance story of his battle with the great "John Barleycorn".

In short, Jack London's books—at least those mentioned here—deserve to be read because they are excellent in form, daring and unusual in substance, and magnificently written by a man of rare ability whose struggles and achievement are worthy of the highest admiration.

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A CHANCE FOR THE DRAMATIC CLUB.

The taste of Haligonians for the drama is worse than degenerate. Sentimental twaddle such as *Everywoman* and *Out There* draws crowded houses, while Constance Crawley, a sincere, inspired actress, plays to the ushers and musicians in *Hedda Gabler*, Rostand's *Romancers*, and D'Annunzio's *Francesca Da Rimini*. It was the same with the lately deceased stock company. *Shore Acres* and *Tess of the Storm Country* with their clap-trap and bathos, scored tremendous successes, while well-constructed pieces like *Fine Feathers*, *The Hypocrites*, and *The Servant in the House* either shocked or bored apathetic audiences. Shaw, Wilde, Galsworthy, Fitch, Dunsany, the Irish, the Russians, the Scandinavians, Schnitzler, Barrie and Hauptmann are as unknown as the Sanskrit. As for new ideas in scenery and stage direction, Urban, Ordynski and Granville Barker might be the names of barbers. There is vital need of an Art Theatre in Halifax to educate the people to higher things. Here is an opportunity for the moribund dramatic club to resurrect itself, and, breaking away from such drivel as *Charlie's Aunt*, to prove that Dalhousie takes some interest in Art and the forward movement.

WORDSWORTH UP-TO-DATE.

She dwelt within a mossy glen,
Beside the springs of Dove;
Her legs were rather bowed—but then,
What matter limbs to love?

A tomcat warbling to the moon,
Aye, 'tis a lovely thing,
But even he would hush his tune
To hear my Lucy sing.

Her mouth could hold an apple pie;
Her teeth were only three.
She married someone else. Oh, my!
The difference to me!

A slumber doth her spirit seal
A cocktail did the trick.
Her little head begins to feel
Like thirteen tons of brick.

Her tongue is wrapped in two or three
Varieties of felts; her
Sorrows will never cease till she
Has had a bromo-seltzer.

DISHONEST ADVERTISING.

Our Provincial journals affect to be the champions of the people, and yet, in the same columns with their usually feeble expressions of opinion is advertising matter which is a direct menace to the welfare, even the lives of thousands. Questionable Patent Medicines are given all the space they desire to pay for, nostrums that claim to cure nearly everything from a toothache to tuberculosis, and to be more potent, even in undiagnosed cases, than the most skillful physicians. Some of these preparations have been proven by analysts to be really injurious, others are mere camouflages of alcohol; at best they cannot live up to one half of their prospectus. In the fine sense of the word, they are swindles. In the United States, reputable papers refuse to accept such copy; why should the health of Nova Scotians be imperilled by these insidious, disgusting advertisements?

FINANCIAL STATEMENT AND BUDGET OF THE Y.M.C.A. FOR THE PRESENT COLLEGE YEAR.

Reception expenses	\$ 23.25	Handbook Adv. unpaid \$	20.00
Bible study books	14.58	Cash on hand	15.81
Adv. for boarding places	4.74		
President's expenses and loss of earning during two weeks spent in Halifax on Y. M. C. A. work before college opened	80.00		
Knowlton Conference Expenses	35.00		
	\$137.57		\$ 33.81
Outstanding debts not covered by assets	\$101.76		
Estimated needs:			
Reading rooms	5.00		
Religious meetings	5.00		
General and Maritime Student work	50.00		
Working Fund	100.00		

The working fund above mentioned is simply a small surplus which is urgently needed to enable the treasurer of the Association to carry on the financial affairs, get the handbook printed, etc., without either keeping our creditors waiting several months, or else paying expenses out of his own pocket.

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April ripples down the river;
Merry bull-frogs are aquiver
And the poplar rows ashiver:
"Spring is soothing to the liver,"
Say M. D.s in Camelot.

Knitting late and knitting early,
Knitting straight and knitting curly,
Sometimes knitting topsy-turvy,
Sits the Lady of Shalott.

Knitting socks or else a mitten,
Stomachers for many a kitten,
Or clothes for some bovine Briton
And his wife to wear on Whitsun-
Day at Camelot.

Speed boats down the stream are chugging,
But at her long needles plugging
On some pale magenta rugging,
Stays the Lady of Shalott.

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THE FIGHT AT THE WALL.

Illiad XIII, 278-289.

As on a winter's day
The snowflakes thickly fall
When Zeus the wise lets loose the snow,
To men displaying thus his darts,
He lulls the winds to sleep
And pours a steady shower;
The mountain tops and points of capes
He covers o'er and flowering plains
With the rich fields of men;
On coast's and havens too
Falls snow along the sea so gray;—
The rushing wave alone spurns it aside—
And all the earth is mantled quite
Whilst from the god descends the storm—
So thickly flew alternate stones
To Trojans then and then to Greeks
And as they fought a mighty din
Sprang up along the wall.

—An Old Dalhousian.

We regret to record another instance of narrow-mindedness within our gates. At a recent meeting of a college society a young lady, who shall remain nameless, demanded that the members of the African race who are studying at Dalhousie should be omitted from all college functions, on the ground that her parents would never allow her to remain at an institution that permitted such a state of affairs. Surely any right-minded Dalhousian must resent the bigotry of such a stand. Dalhousie prides itself upon democracy and freedom from class distinctions. Moreover our Ethiopian co-students are doing much to elevate their race, and deserve our help, rather than the cold shoulder. A negro doctor in the North End was one of the most heroic workers in the recent time of trouble. Yet we Dalhousians are unwilling to admit that his fellows are human beings like ourselves.

What Freshman in dentistry was heard to argue: "Sure, Miss Cr-gg can reprimand anyone, for she has the ability and the weight behind it!"?

Norman MacKay's claim for exemption on the ground of physical defect was dismissed by Mr. Justice Russel, but leave was given to appeal to Ottawa.

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