

We cordially invite all undergraduates to contribute to our columns. It will do you good; it will amuse and instruct your fellow-students. News items in and about the college are specially requested, and the opinion of students on their college work will be always gladly and carefully considered. In past years this invitation has not been very numerously responded to, and the majority of those who have sent us contributions have thought themselves obliged to write in verse. We are not too proud to accept prose.

THE LAW FACULTY.

AN issue of the GAZETTE would scarcely be complete without some reference to this much debated school. All has not yet been said that might be, nor indeed, all that ought to be said. So long as needed improvements are not made, so long will it be our duty to agitate for them. We have, in the past, taken our stand firmly and decidedly that McGill's Law Faculty will compare very favourably with any other law school in the Province: we have quite as decidedly expressed our disapproval of the authorities resting satisfied with this standard of proficiency. Classes meet this year in the same building—most uncomfortable and inconvenient quarters. Has there been any serious effort made to secure better accommodation?

But putting aside this and kindred reforms, discussed last year, there is still another defect which has been deeply felt, and which must remain no longer uncriticised. Its remedy is in the hands of the professors themselves. We refer to the method, or rather want of method, in the class work. The professors are capable, without doubt; they have too little time for their work, certainly, and get no pay worth mentioning for that little; but we cannot shut our eyes to the fact, that there is in the entire course a want of systematic arrangement. There is no *actual teaching* done. If, as was argued by Dr. Trenholme, last year, that the course aimed rather at directing the reading of students than at imparting detailed information, it must be evident to all who have the slightest knowledge of the teacher's work, that the first and greatest requisite to obtain this result would be for the professors to outline their year's work with the utmost precision, and to adopt means, as the session advances, to ascertain whether or not the students have a clear understanding of the branch upon which they ought to be at that particular time engaged. Nothing of this sort is now done. The result is that students, who have become confused in the tremendous amount of reading which a satisfactory course in law involves,

look in vain to the lectures to assist them to group and systematize their knowledge; and, eventually, are glad to content themselves with scanning old examination papers, and 'cramming isolated facts, to secure a "pass," totally regardless of the underlying principles which connect the whole fabric, a knowledge of which will alone make them safe men on which to rest the great responsibilities which their profession will hereafter involve.

We must confess we see no reason to be very hopeful for the school; but we are not a whit less determined to do what we can towards bettering its condition, and we purpose, in future issues, to go more fully into the course, and especially into the manner in which the lectures are delivered.

THE LATE MR. J. RALPH MURRAY.

THERE probably is not a man connected with the University, student or professor, who will not have learned of the death of Mr. Murray with profound regret. The deceased was widely known throughout college circles. He was, emphatically, a college man; no enterprise among our students, for the past eight or ten years, wanted his assistance and advice in vain. Of a literary turn of mind, he found his most agreeable companions among University graduates and students; and among them his influence will be long felt for good. He did much for the Undergraduates' Literary Society during his course in Arts; he wrought hard for the Graduates' Society, and assisted very materially in infusing that new life and vigour into its meetings which have marked its recent history; he was one of the organizers of the University Club, and a regular attendant at the meetings of the University Literary Society. In all these institutions he was a leader among his fellows; of urbane and polished manners, of great good humour, and an agreeable disposition, his influence was deeply felt and seldom resented. In following out his convictions, he was not apt to regard any movement as to whether it was popular or not, and may possibly have made some enemies by his earnest advocacy of his views. But even those who differed from him were at all times ready to admit that it was the measure and not the man to whom they were opposed. "He that hath no friend and no enemy is one of the vulgar, and without talents, power, or energy," says Lavater. Mr. Murray had hosts of friends, and not an enemy who will not equally with us deplore his loss.

This paper is under a deep debt of gratitude to him. For years one of our assistant editors, in '85 and '86 our Editor-in-chief, our column were always enriched by contributions from his facile pen.