

# The Varsity

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It has often been remarked that while the University of Toronto is provided with almost every conceivable kind of club and society, that it yet lacked one organization which, it might reasonably be supposed, would be the last to be wanting. We refer, of course, to the curious absence of a Dramatic Club. It is understood that efforts have previously been made to awaken an interest among Toronto students in the drama from the practical standpoint, but they have never had any permanent success. Some few years ago the undergraduates produced "Antigone," and it is a wonder that the great good fortune of that attempt did not stimulate the formation of a Dramatic Club. It is indeed somewhat hard to understand why such a club was not in existence long ago. We do not think it can be said that there is any lack of material out of which to make good amateur actors, for surely we have a large enough number of students to draw upon? Moreover, the continuous and successful careers of the various musical societies which seem to find no trouble in recruiting among the student-body would go to prove that the artistic element is not dead in us altogether. And it would seem fair enough to suppose that there are at least a few out of the great number of students enrolled who have been endowed by nature with a passable amount of histrionic talent. It is very likely, too, that the fear that a Dramatic Club would make too heavy a demand on the time of its members has been in the way of its formation. But such a fear is surely groundless. This would, too, apply with equal force to the Glee Club, or the Banjo, Mandolin and Guitar Club. Now, we do not think that anyone who is at all well acquainted with the work of these societies would urge for one moment that the students who belong to them waste their time in devoting a

reasonable amount of attention to their duties as members. It is a fact, which no one will gainsay, that the man who, during his college course, in addition to the reading provided by the curriculum, has interested himself in some form of amusement or consistently taken up some hobby, is at the end of his course a really far better educated man than the mere "plug" who grinds joylessly and hopelessly at his texts in order to win a place in the class lists. But the member of a Dramatic Club need not fear that his mind would be too much distracted from his work by his belonging to such an organization. For a Dramatic Club would be, to a greater extent probably than any other society about the University, a real supplement to the curriculum. The latter provides that Literature shall form a considerable part of our studies. Now we study the drama as literature. In particular we read Shakespeare. But Shakespeare, it is well known, never wrote his plays to be read; he wrote them to be played. Surely, then, it would add greatly to our own appreciation of good literary drama if we had a club among ourselves which would make it its business so to study the drama as to put it to its natural use; besides such a club would be certain to cultivate the taste in dramatic matters of the outside public. There is one more reason why we believe there is room for a Dramatic Club at the University, and it is this: A Dramatic Club would provide a hobby for those students who not having an ear for music can neither sing nor play, and not possessing the necessary physical strength, or perhaps not being so inclined, do not enter the arena of sport.

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We wish Mr. McEntee every success in his effort to organize a Dramatic Club. We believe he deserves success; we are confident he will be successful. A strong and representative committee has been nominated which is to examine the question. If the club is founded it seems likely that its first public appearance would be on Hallowe'en. And we are convinced that any who do not at present endorse the scheme—and they are probably very few—would be the first to congratulate the University Dramatic Club on its success.

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There are already signs that the dread first of May is coming appreciably near. The Library is even at this date very well patronized and, instead of being turned out at five o'clock as formerly, the grateful student may now stay till six. It was proposed on one occasion to keep the Library open all night and to provide a free lunch in the basement. But, perhaps owing to low state of the University funds, this plan was never carried out.

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In the latest number of *The College Times* there is a very timely article by Mr. A. A. Macdonald, on the regrettable tendency to professionalism in sport. We are sure that all those who hold healthy views on athletics will agree very cordially with all that Mr. Macdonald has to say.