

year unfortunates trying to roast potatoes or boil rice while the rest were looking after the engine.

What has the art of fencing to do with architecture? There must be some intimate connection. It is an established fact that the S. P. S. students have a monopoly of the "gym." But they mostly go in for the more violent kinds of exercise, neglecting the "lighter" arts of fencing, etc. The Architectural Department now, however, evidently intends to hold a little monopoly on the latter. Whatever may be the advantages of fencing we would advise students in this department, on the strength of the above facts, to consider seriously the advisability of taking it up.

A UNIVERSITY ROWING CLUB.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE VARSITY:

SIR,—At the recent annual meeting of the University Athletic Association I was accorded the privilege of saying a few words regarding the proposed establishment of rowing as a branch of University athletics, and of urging the acceptance of the offer of assistance made by the Argonaut Rowing Club. With your permission, I should like, in the columns of your valuable paper, to again commend the project to the favorable consideration of the students. It was in the capacity of Secretary of the Argonaut Rowing Club that I spoke at the meeting; I write now as a graduate who has the best interests of the University at heart.

In the arena of aquatic sport Toronto University, as well as every other seat of learning in Canada, is unknown, but I am convinced that the time for an advance is at hand. Canada is famous all the world over for the many oarsmen, both amateur and professional, that she has produced, but it is a curious and regrettable fact that no Canadian college can claim any share of the credit. Among the various colleges there is, however, none in which the conditions and opportunities are so favorable as at Varsity. The chief difficulty has been in making a beginning, for the expense involved in getting boat-house accommodation, equipment and coaching is greater than in other branches of sport, but this difficulty is in a large measure overcome by the offer made by the Argonaut Rowing Club. A boat-house, well-equipped, commodious and convenient, is available, with the advantage of coaching, advice and assistance from some of the best professional and amateur exponents of the art, and the expense involved is trifling. In the great universities of the United States and England, where the conditions are often much less favorable, the sport is thriving and annual international contests seem to

be in order. In these latter there can be little doubt that Toronto University would in time become a successful participant. Another supposed difficulty is found in the fact that the rowing season begins and ends with the long vacation. It must be remembered, however, that in May and June the activity is greatest. The spring races of the rowing clubs in Canada and the United States take place in June, and one of the best Canadian regattas is held on Toronto Bay on Dominion Day. It should be an easy matter for Varsity, with its hundreds of students, to have a four or an eight in training until the beginning of July.

I sincerely hope that the committee of students that was appointed to take action in this matter will be the nucleus of a University Rowing Club, that will in due course be represented at the Canadian and American regattas and alternately at Henley. In no branch of sport could Varsity win more credit and renown.

Faithfully yours,

W. H. BUNTING, '92.

Toronto, January 23rd.

McGILL CONVERSAT.

The Conversat of the Arts Faculty of McGill College was held on the 26th inst., and, as I was chosen to represent Varsity, I feel that I owe some account of it. I arrived in Montreal Tuesday morning, after meeting the representative from Queen's on the train. We met the Reception Committee, who showed us the sights of the town, including McGill, which has a number of very fine buildings, belonging mostly to the Science faculty.

The Conversat in the evening was held in the Arts building, which was neatly but not elaborately decorated. It was very nice—a small edition of our own—the programme being divided into two parts—a concert and a dance. There were about 300 present—nearly all McGill students or Donalds, as the lady students are called. Were they nice? I am not sure. Most of them thought I was a McGill student, and the little piece of blue and white ribbon I wore, a badge of some temperance society. I didn't enlighten them; I thought it was the duty of their professors. However, I was enjoying myself very well, until some young lady, brighter than the rest (?), asked me if I was from Queen's. That was the last straw (also the last dance). I took my broken spirits to the Reception Committee and demanded that we take instant departure, which we did. Next day the Committee were again on hand, nor did they cease their attentions until the evening train tore us away.

J. E. WALLBRIDGE, '97.

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