

# The O. A. C. Review.

The Dignity of a Calling is Its Utility.

Vol. VI.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, FEBRUARY, 1895.

No. 5

## EDITORIAL NOTES.

**1** OUR readers will pardon us, we hope, if their paper comes to them laden with sulphurous fumes and carbolic vapors. During the last few weeks we have passed through the very trying circumstances necessary to make quarantine a success. We are particularly well pleased with the manner in which the newspapers took up the matter and the vigor with which they prosecuted the case. Their accounts of the situation were made as interesting as the facts are, a few more particulars would allow. We are specially pleased with the "coolness" which our city friends exhibited during the "scare," and we compliment them upon the fortitude with which they faced the trying ordeal. To the Board of Health we hasten to tender our gratitude for the comforts of quarantine and the many tokens of regard shown while in the discharge of their duties. The steam sterilizer must not be forgotten. To it we owe the savory odor and "increased" condition of our garments. To all our friends we tender our most sincere gratitude for the care taken of us during the eventful month, and should another case of smallpox break out, from them we hope and pray to be delivered.

It has long been felt that the order in the reading room has been anything but satisfactory, and many feeble efforts have been put forward, from time to time, for maintaining quietness in the place. Situated as it is but a few steps from the dining hall, it is not surprising that at times the conduct therein should be boisterous. More especially is this the case when the foods provided by our munificent Government tend to the production of wiry frames and sinewy muscles. We are pleased to state that now the prospects of a quiet reading room are brighter than they have ever been before. A committee of nine has been appointed whose duty it is to have one of its members in the room, at such times as is deemed necessary, each day in the week, who shall be responsible for the conduct and quietness of the place. This is a step in the direction of a settlement of the difficulty, and we congratulate the students upon the vigor with which they have proceeded in the matter.

The Treasurer informs us that but few of our outside subscriptions have yet been paid. We have refrained from speaking of the matter publicly in the hope that our friends would be mindful of their duty towards us in that respect, but a notice now seems imperative. We have no quarrel with our friends if they write us,

"Stop my paper." But we do think that when a subscriber takes our paper for five months he is entitled to pay for it whether he wants to or not. Another matter which the ex-students have neglected, is to supply our Personal Editor with facts regarding themselves. Part of our mission is to keep Associates in touch with each other, and to that end it is necessary that we hear from them occasionally. A most convenient time for a "Personal" is when enclosing the subscription. "A word to the wise is sufficient."

This month we publish a timely letter on the Experimental Union by G. F. Marsh, B. S. A. It will, we believe, prove interesting as it deals with a matter in which we all feel concern. Few of us have had the chance to understand this question so fully as Mr. Marsh. He has been a constant attendant at the meetings for the past ten years, and while in connection with the "Farmers' Advocate" came into contact with many ex-students and thus knows their general views on the question.

We all feel a just pride in the success with which the co-operative experiments have been attended. The system and the manner in which it is carried out, we believe, to be unequalled anywhere else in America. With this no fault is found.

With regard to the reunion it is to be lamented that it is in such an unsatisfactory condition. The reunion spirit was entirely lacking from the last meeting, and the absence was not made up for by the presence of one of America's most eminent agricultural lecturers. Many ex-students that were present went home during the second afternoon because they "must get home again." If they felt at home and were enjoying themselves, such would not be the case. There is no time, as is pointed out, for ex-students to renew old friendships, to become acquainted with others they have heard about, or to inquire after the companions of their college days.

That these defects do exist all must agree. How they can be remedied is a question upon which there will be a difference of opinion. We believe that it would be better in every way if during our two days meeting more attention were paid to the reunion. Several suggestions are made in the letter which are worthy of consideration. These also indicate to a certain extent the trend of the ideas held by many. A discussion, conducted in the kindly spirit of Mr. Marsh's letter, we believe will do good. "Reduce things to the first institution and observe wherein and how they have degenerated; but yet ask counsel of both times—of the ancient time what is best, and of the latter time what is fittest." Let us have views and suggestions on this question from others.