

Though it cannot be said that there was any particular dissatisfaction with the old system, yet the new one was at first more or less warmly received by the students.

This system theoretically has much in it that is beneficial to both examiner and candidate. It entirely does away with any possibility of a charge of favoritism or of the contrary. The examiner is supposedly unaware of the authorship of the paper. But that this in practise is not generally the case is easily seen.

It cannot but be admitted that the personality of each paper, signed or numbered, is generally known, especially those of the three upper classes, to every examiner, or if not known in this way, the authorship is easily found by means of our system of aggregating the marks obtained in the written and daily work.

Then if, as in most cases, the writer is known through the personality of his written paper, or if he becomes known through his name and number being handed to each examiner, for the purpose of averaging his daily and written work, of what use are the *numbers*?

However as the increased work of examining and marking does not come upon us, and as it is just as easy if not easier to sign a number than a name, we have no objections to the number system as such. But we do fail to see the practical benefit of the new introduction.

The Athenæum's Winter Programme.

 UR Literary Society, the chief aim of which is the promotion of public speaking among its members, planned for itself this winter, what was, considering the number of its membership, a somewhat heavy programme of debates.

Beside the ordinary and interclass debating, the Society arranged for two intercollegiate debates, one with Dalhousie for the fourth of March and one with Kings for the eighteenth. Unfortunately Dalhousie on account of press of work was obliged to postpone the meeting until the Fall term. Both Colleges regret that this was unavoidable, for we have never yet met each other on the platform.

As we said before, the programme of the Society and necessarily therefore of every active member was somewhat heavy. So it was no wonder that considerable difficulty was found to obtain men who would, without the slightest respite of their class work, give the time and attention necessary for an intercollegiate debate.

It seems to us however that the faculty could have, without undue departure from its established custom, made matters less difficult for us by lightening the work of the men who strive in this intellectual battle to uphold the honor of Acadia.

It is the reasonable desire of every college to have the greatest possible number of its students good public speakers; and nowadays