

AN ENGINEERS' CLUB.

So far as we know, no attempt has been made to organize an engineers' club in Montreal. Certainly none exists. This is surprising when we consider the large number of societies that flourish around us and the benefits they are bestowing upon the members composing them. To say that it shows the superior judgment of engineers, would be far from the truth. That they excel as a body in this particular faculty is undoubtedly true, but it is equally so that they have shown an apathy in this regard that is culpable. It is to be hoped that it may not long be said, that the city which was honored as the place of meeting of the British scientists and engineers cannot lay claim to having a solitary engineering club. The obstacle in the way is not the want of talented men; for of these the profession has its share. At least five engineers in Montreal are members of the American Association of Civil Engineers. This shows that all are not averse to union for purposes of mutual benefit. New York, however, is far from Montreal, and but a very few from this Province can attend the meetings. It seems to us that it would be wise for our members to imitate the example of their brethren in the United States, who have organized themselves into one or more societies in every State of the Union; the greater part being more local than general and independent of the larger associations. In order to raise the status of their profession as well as for purposes of self-improvement, it is desirable that the mechanical, mining and civil engineers of the Province of Quebec should unite. Were this impracticable, Montreal and its vicinity ought to take the initiative.

We will be candid enough to state that we are in part prompted by selfish aims in advocating this matter. We have the interests of the Faculty of Applied Science to protect and can readily realize the advantages that would accrue to its students were they allowed to form the sub-stratum of a club of Montreal engineers. The students would not only profit by the papers read and the discussions ensuing, but would also be brought into more closer relationship with the older and more talented members of their chosen profession who are of all others the men best able to assist them in the most trying period of their lives.

Up to the present few outsiders have taken any interest in the young men, in our engineering school, who are striving to fit themselves for lives of usefulness. To these uninterested outsiders, we would say, be more generous. You cannot afford to ignore us. If the Faculty progresses as rapidly in the future as it has done in the past ten years, in ten years more, a large part of the important engineering works of

Canada will be in the hands of its graduates. By giving us the cold shoulder now, you may retard but cannot prevent us from establishing in time a reputation.

Last year the students had the pleasure of listening to a course of lectures delivered by men unconnected with the college, unless in so far as an interest in its welfare is concerned. Our thanks are due to Messrs. Peterson, Kennedy, Bateman, Taylor and others for their interesting lectures. It is to be regretted that nothing has been done in this direction during the present session. We would ask the undergraduates who intend returning next fall to do what they can towards the fulfilment of this object. It would be well also, in the event of failure in establishing an engineers' club in the city, to form one in connection with the college and invite the old and tried friends, as well as graduates of the Science Faculty, to deliver lectures or read papers. At present comparatively few Science students belong to any literary society. The number is sufficiently large to support one of their own.

THE PRELIMINARY BAR EXAMINATION.

Because of the enforcement of this examination, our lawyers pose as public benefactors, alleging that by it they prevent men of no education from obtaining a position in which their ignorance would be dangerous to the property or rights of others, who might be induced to confide in them. As theory this sounds well; in reality it is nothing but claptrap, part of the stage garniture by which the liberal professions are continually imposing upon the credulous. If the bar really aimed at excluding all but trained intellects from the practice of law, they would accept as equivalent to the preliminary examination, or even would insist upon the candidate's possessing, a university degree. By refusing to do this, they show the hollowness of their position. The real *raison d'être* of the preliminary examination is the belief that it is an obstacle which diminishes the number and retards the course of, would-be lawyers. Protection to the public there is none, as the most superficial acquaintance with those who have conquered the ordeal will prove. By fair, or other, means the charlatan and the unscrupulous can always manage to surmount this barrier, from before which the learned and modest are sometimes forced to retire. The examination itself is of such a nature that though sufficient knowledge to pass it may be gained from a tutor in a few weeks, the chances are against the candidate's success, unless he has a power of quick thinking such as is by no means common. The range covered is large, the time short, the questions of all degrees of complexity. Some can be