

Y. M. C. A.

THE first meeting of the Arts and Science Y.M.C.A. this year was held on Friday, Oct. 9th, in Convocation Hall. The President, G. A. Brown, delivered the following address:

At this our first meeting of the year it is the supposed duty of the President to give an address of welcome to those who are here for the first time. Such an address usually consists of a number of conventional expressions that may mean a great deal or may mean very little. So I thought instead of running the risk of falling into similar errors it would be better to try to give a few suggestions regarding the benefits that are to be gained from a College education generally, and especially from our own University of Queen's. I am doing this because I feel that before we can give a sincere welcome to a new friend, we ourselves must feel that the society and new companionship we offer is one, the influence of which may be of true and permanent value to his life. Now, a student who has spent wisely even only two or three years at Queen's must already feel certain that the society of thought and life that we have here is one that is of highest value to all who are in any degree alive to the needs of our own life and time, and it is because we are being more and more convinced of this fact that we are glad to welcome every new student who decides to cast in his life with us.

A difference, more or less marked, is always made between Seniors and Freshmen. But at bottom the difference is only one of time, two or three years at most, and of course must be short lived. The only difference pre-

supposed in an opening address of this kind is that those of us who have partially completed our course are in a better position, both by our mistakes and our successes, to give suggestions or advice to those who are just now entering for the first time on similar courses.

Your object in being here, professed or real, is to gain more knowledge by following some special course of study. Like the rest of us you now feel that your aim is to gain a degree. This in a sense is certainly a worthy object to be striving for, yet we might gain this and have really gained very little insight into the true relation of the special study we pursue to the great universal truth which underlies all knowledge, and also fail to find our own true relation to this world and to our fellowmen.

The main object of education is to lead out the minds of men to a broader understanding of and a clearer insight into the Eternal laws that govern human life and action. This, I believe, is the feeling that is becoming more and more prevalent in our University, viz., that we come here to have our minds enlarged and developed so that we can grasp more clearly the relative value of the different phases of knowledge in their bearing on human life, to have a clearer insight into what is really the Truth. It is not definite knowledge so much as an enlarged capacity for maturer judgment and truer action, for as one has said, "It is a low benefit to give me something; it is a high benefit to enable me to do somewhat of myself." So this, I feel, is the true value of a University education, to enable us to feel and know our own capabilities and to direct those powers in the proper channels, so that we may be