

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, FEB. 16TH, 1895.

No. 8.

Queen's University Journal,

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during the Academic year.

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The annual subscription is One Dollar, payable before the end of January.

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THE JOURNAL extends a hearty welcome to the 'fathers and brethren' of the Theological Conference who have arrived and gone energetically to work. This annual Conference has now become an established feature of university life and is proving one of the most efficient agencies in extending university influence. Not only does it relieve the visiting graduates from the incessant strain of pastoral work and give them an opportunity of exchanging ideas, but it serves as a bond between them and the best thought of the college, and enables them to hear, at regular intervals, what the most mature thinkers of our professorial staff have to say. It is a good thing for the students, too, who are inclined to give themselves over rather much to the theoretical and ideal, to come into contact for a short time with men who are taking the lead in the practical problems of the day. The programme is a comprehensive one and will give full scope for the well-known abilities of the leaders whose names are attached. In our next number we hope to give a brief outline of their labours, and content ourselves with asking the students to give full indulgence to these representatives of an earlier collegiate age. To our ministerial readers who are not here, we say, you are missing a good thing.

But while the Theologues are thus refreshing themselves at the fountain of their Alma Mater, we see no reason why such progress should be confined

to them, or why, as suggested in a recent JOURNAL, the medical graduates should not have a similar conference. The average practitioner, who finds little time for advanced work, could very profitably, to himself and society, spend a week or two every year in expanding his medical and hospital experience in this way, and it would be well if Queen's could take the lead again. Further, a similar gathering of the large number of our teaching-graduates might take place that would bring them into touch, not only with the university culture, but with the latest methods of teaching employed by members of the faculty. It might be difficult to secure a suitable time, but could not the Easter vacation be utilized? To these two suggestions the objection might be urged that it would interfere seriously with class work in Arts and Medicine, but if those interested ever consider the move worthy of consideration, the partial break of class-work for a very few days need not stand in the way, as such gatherings should prove a stimulus rather than a drawback to the students.

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In our last number we called attention to the wrong, which many students do their own future, by entering college without a thorough preparation, and also gave it as our opinion that the university did these men an injustice by making such a wrong possible, through a low standard of matriculation. That there is need of blowing the trumpet loudly on this matter is clear from the facts then brought forward. To what was then said we have a few words to add concerning supplementary examinations.

It has often seemed to us very wonderful that candidates who had ignominiously failed in the matriculation examination of July should be able to pass an examination on the same subjects only two months later. In the days of our youth the months of July and August were months of mental lethargy—a lethargy from which we were not fully aroused until some weeks after school re-opened. But now things are changed. Many young men and maidens are so bright that at the September examination they can make from 25 to 40 per cent. on a subject in which they made only from 0 to 10 per cent. in July. And when we consider that the work done during the intervening months is generally done without the help and inspiration of a teacher, our wonder at the