

OBITUARIES.

We are sure that all the professors and students who frequent the museum, will feel sincere sympathy for Mr. Edward Ardley, who last week suffered a great loss by the death of his wife from pneumonia. Edward is the caretaker of the museum, and every one notes the extreme cleanliness and order in which it is kept, and appreciates his willingness to oblige at all times. He will feel his loss all the more keenly as she was still a young woman, the mother of five young children, who are thus left motherless when most they need her kind care.

We regret to announce in this issue the death of Mr. John L. Duffet, student in Medicine at McGill, which took place at his home at Kinnear's Mills, Que., on the 20th July last. Mr. Duffet entered upon the study of Medicine in '82, passing his primary examination with honors in '84. He attended the session of '84-'85, but with gradually failing health. In March, '87, he had an attack of acute bronchitis which terminated in phthisis. In the fall of that year he went to Colorado. The benefit to his health was only temporary, and he returned home, very much emaciated in June last, his death taking place a few weeks later.

Mr. Duffet was a diligent student, possessing good talent and amiable qualities; and his untimely death will be heard of with regret by his class mates of '86.

Correspondence.

ENCOURAGEMENT OF CANADIAN LITERATURE.

To the Editors *University Gazette*.—

DEAR SIRS,—Having read much recently in the papers about the causes of the stagnant condition of Canadian literature, I thought of suggesting through your columns a plan which came into my head when thinking over the matter. The plan consists of the formation of an Author's Society, whose chief object shall be the publication of works by its members. It is generally recognized that the non-existence of a Canadian literature arises largely from causes of an economic nature, and that if we could create a market, literary productions would soon be forthcoming. Such a market, I think, an Author's Society would soon open up. Another trouble is that in Canada we have few men of literary tastes, who have means and leisure to risk in literary speculations. I think the creation of such a Society would also meet this difficulty. Suppose four hundred members should join from the whole of Canada, at a subscription of, say, ten dollars a year. This would give four thousand dollars a year income, to be administered by the committee. Each member should have the right of sending in one or more of his works, which he is desirous of publishing. The committee should then choose a certain number of the best, and publish as many as they can afford to, a new choice taking place every year. Arrangements of a uniform nature should of course be made with the author, all risk, however, lying with the Society.

Each member of the Society should receive copies of the books published, and would thus in any case get some return for his subscription. If the committee made wise and impartial selections, the Society would probably make a profit, and would gradually be able to publish more works. They might after a while, in addition, publish a magazine which would be a credit to our young country.

This suggestion may strike others as of an entirely visionary and unpractical nature, and of course in this practical age we cannot afford time to examine visionary schemes; but should it commend itself to any of your readers, I hope that they will give expression to their approval.

I remain,

Dear Sirs,

Yours truly,

J. RALPH MURRAY.

Y. M. C. A. BUILDING.

Editors University Gazette.—

DEAR SIRS,—In the circular sent out by the Y.M.C.A., relative to the proposed building, it was mentioned that the Toronto men, after some months' use, speak with enthusiasm of their new building, which was opened only last spring. With your permission I would like to give some extracts from letters received from Toronto, which will illustrate and substantiate the statement.

"Once we were homeless; now we have a local habitation and a name. The time has gone by, when men could be at the University for months without knowing of our existence. We nearly all agree in wondering how we managed to do our work without a building devoted entirely to association purposes."

"Our meetings are now held in quietness and comfort.

The numbers at our prayer meeting on Thursday will double during the year. Will they not naturally be better attended with carpeted rooms and a grate fire?"

"The building has led to the stirring up of the Christian men of the University and created a strong bond between them. It has also improved our singing by regular singing practices. We have now nine good training classes at work, and a tenth ready to be organized. Arrangements have been made for holding a series of missionary concerts." "We have ordered chess and draught boards. It is our intention hereafter to open the building on Sunday. It will be a pleasant place in which to take refuge from the ordinary boarding house. If other societies desire to use the building we are glad to allow them, requiring only a fair rental. We secured this fall the addresses, terms, conditions, description, etc., of about 60 good boarding-houses, and helped over 100 men to find pleasant homes."

"It is not so much what the building is as what we see it can be made to be. We all feel strongly regarding the inexpressible advantages that have followed our successful scheme."

"Now about the finances, you need anticipate no trouble. You will have a little, of course, but nothing to signify. Zeal and prayer are the two essentials. If the students are once thoroughly incited—if they mean