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THE OWL is the journal of the students of the College of Ottawa. Its object is to aid the students in their literary development, to chronicle their doings in and out of class, and to unite more closely the students of the past and present to their Alma Mater.

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The Faculty have decided that criticism of members of the teaching staff does not come within the province of this journal. Deferring to this decision we shall not allow anything of this kind to appear in future.

ST. THOMAS' ACADEMY.

The entertainment on St. Thomas' night gave the students in general an idea of the work done by the St. Thomas Academy. This is not the place to notice the several features in detail. But the discussion on Brute Souls was suggestive of many inter-

esting considerations, one of which we shall notice

Societies for the prevention of cruelty to animals appears at first sight to be very laudable institutions but, after a close examination of the question we must come to the conclusion that their object is quixotic, and even positively injurious to those who take an active part in them. The arguments used in the Academy were drawn from various sources which it would be impossible for us to mention so we hope that we may not be accused of plagiarism if we do not do more here than collate a few of them.

God wishes the brute creation to suffer. For following their God-given instincts, brutes, of which domestic animals are a mere fraction, are constantly inflicting pain on each other.

Those who laud such actions as the establishment of hospitals for homeless cats must find it shockingly repulsive to read the habits of the carnivora. Why do not some of them extend their sympathy to the helpless mice, or try to teach spiders to be less cruel to the dear house flies? If a man illtreats his horse he is doing an act for which he deserves to be reprimanded. He is doing a foolish act, nay more he is needlessly inflicting pain and this has a degrading influence on himself. But in as much as man is superior to the horse the motive should be to save the man rather than the horse. Numerous experiments prove that the lower animals do not suffer nearly so much as man would under like circumstances.

An exaggerated motion of the sensibility of brutes and a disregard for human suffering are the direct outcome of all this talk about cruelty to animals. *Our Dumb Animals* tells us approvingly that half the world believes in a hereafter for the lower animals?