

CORRESPONDENCE.

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—In the last issue of your newspaper, you comment editorially on the speech delivered by the President of the League in England, Lord Rosebery, at the Leeds Chamber of Commerce last month, and while you seem fully alive to the difficulty of the problem of the future relations of Great Britain to Greater Britain, you express the opinion that its solution is a hopeless task and becomes so the more when it is discussed. You say that England would never give Canada what they would want; and that Canada would never give what England would want.

You may possibly be correct, to a great extent, in your conclusions, Mr. Editor, but your attention is drawn to the fact that a proper and adequate discussion of the various intricate and difficult questions involved in the scheme of federation has by no means taken place. Until such a discussion has been held and the scheme has proved abortive, let no man consider the task a hopeless one!

The intricacy and difficulty of the various questions involved is great indeed; but we, of the League, believe that they are capable of being properly answered and adjusted. This can only be done by full and proper discussion of these various matters, and for that purpose the holding of Conferences between the various parts of the Empire should most certainly be arranged for. The Imperial Conference of 1887 was held at the instigation of our League and we advocate the holding of further Conferences from time to time so that a full discussion of facts and figures may take place and a definite understanding of them may be arrived at. The correctness of our belief or its incorrectness will not be apparent until this discussion has been had and this understanding has been come to.

The suggestion of Sir Frederick Young in his lecture at Johnstone, in Scotland, on September 6th, that a commission should be appointed to go round the various colonies, not to advocate any particular policy, but to ascertain the views of the colonists themselves, is a most valuable one. Such a Commission, with such a man as Lord Rosebery at its head, would go a long way towards sifting the matter thoroughly and arriving at the truth. And it is the truth that we want! Something far different to the present mode of government is wanted in order to be thoroughly satisfactory to the colonies. There are about thirty-six millions of Britons in the United Kingdom, and about a third of that number of Britons by courtesy in the colonies. These latter have not as much voice in the affairs of the Empire as the poorest voter in the Tower Hamlets. We point to this state of affairs, and we say that it is capable of being remedied and should be remedied. We should be made British citizens and should have a proper and adequate voice in the direction of such matters as are of common interest to the whole Empire. Of such are foreign relations, defence, war, expenditure for national as distinguished from local purposes, international law, the government of India, and expansion of empire. Many evils exist in the present day which should be and would be removed by representation. The component parts of the Empire are bound together by sentiment and by interest; Conferences and Commissions will furnish the materials from which to construct the United States of Britain and representation will cement the structure.

Yours etc.,

R. CASIMIR DICKSON,

Hon. Sec of the I. F. L. in Canada.

"METHODS OF M'GILL."

To the Editor of THE WEEK :

SIR,—The article of an anonymous correspondent, with reference to the administration of McGill University, in which a communication of mine is referred to, will mislead no one who is acquainted with the facts. It is, however, of such an extraordinary nature that I must crave the justice from THE WEEK of being allowed briefly to characterize it as containing, interwoven with common-places which no one would dispute, and statements which no one has called in question, a series of (1) mis-representations, (2) slanderous innuendoes, and (3) downright falsehoods, together with (4) a material and important suppression.

Having said this, I must decline all further correspondence, unless the author of the article will drop the mask, and write under his (or her) own name.

If this is done, I will undertake to point out which of the various portions of the letter correspond to my description of them.

If this challenge is declined, the readers of THE WEEK will have on the one hand, the asseverations—I may fairly say the impudent and malevolent asseverations—of an unknown individual, and on the other, the denial of one who is perfectly acquainted with the facts, and who, as a guarantee of accuracy, appends his own signature.

I write, as before, unofficially and entirely on my own responsibility.
Montreal, 5th November, 1888.

GEO. HAGUE.

MUSIC.

IRISH PROTESTANT BENEVOLENT SOCIETY.

THE society has long provided most enjoyable programmes at its annual concerts, and the one presented to the public on Friday evening last was a fitting culmination to a long series of artistic successes, although the attendance was not so large as on previous occasions. The Boston Symphony Orchestral Club, a new organization composed of most capable talent, was assisted by Miss Elsa Clark Cushing, Miss Emily Winant, and Mr. D. M. Babcock. The orchestral club played a fine sextette by Krug, and a serenade by Moskowski, as well as one of Brahms' Hungarian Dances, in good style. The members are all gentlemen of unusual

excellence as individual performers and their ensemble playing is excellent. There is that proper subservience of the accompanying instruments to the solo instrument, without which any attempt at chamber music fails of excellence, and in the full passages there was a most satisfactory balance of tone. Mr. Willis Nowell played a violin solo, and was very successful in pleasing the audience. He has a good style and is a most careful performer. The flautist, Mons. Burode, has a fine mellow tone, and plenty of executive talent. The violoncellist, Herr Philip Roth, has a noble sonorous tone but a trifle incisive, and he has excellent cantabile style, careful and impressive. Miss Cushing is a singer of exceedingly pleasing appearance, and with a nice, bright voice. Her style is slightly uneven, and a certain air of artificiality deters from the full enjoyment of what would otherwise be a pleasing rendition. Miss Winant was in splendid voice, and gave a beautiful rendering of Ponchielli's "La Cieca" followed later by "In Questa Tomba" and the "Children's Home." She is one of the most satisfactory singers that has ever come to Toronto, as is also Mr. Babcock, whose noble bass trolled out in a manner whose gentleness was surprising in a voice of such magnitude.

MENDELSSOHN QUINTETTE CLUB.

THE present organization of this popular Club gave a fine concert at the Permanent Exhibition, on Monday evening, before a large audience. In its present shape the Club fully equals the old form of the Schultze-Fries days in talent, and bids fair to equal it in execution as well when its members have played together longer. The tone of the individual instruments is excellent, and they blend well together, but, of course, in the space of a few months, the play cannot be so good as a whole season's work will make it. Still its performance was most enjoyable, a specially fine rendering being given of the Tchaikowsky quartette. Herr Anton Hekking, the violoncellist, is doubtless the Club's strongest feature, and he plays with exquisite taste. A beautiful tone, easy, graceful movements, unerring certainty, and a facility that hides all difficulty, make him one of the most satisfactory cellists we have had. He gave a beautiful reading of Schumann's "Traumerei." Herr William Ohliger is a violinist of good parts, and is a very acceptable soloist. Although he played from his notes, his rendering was in no wise formal, but was as free and artistic as one could wish. Miss Ryan, daughter of the veteran organizer of the Club, sang several numbers in a most pleasing manner. She has a clear voice well under control, and shows artistic influence, if her singing is a trifle lacking in spontaneity. Messrs. Howland and Nicholls' enterprise in organizing a concert season deserves encouragement, which they should meet with on Saturday when the Club gives a second concert.

B. NATURAL.

OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

THE PILLARS OF SOCIETY AND OTHER PLAYS. By Henrik Ibsen. Edited with an introduction by Havelock Ellis. London: Walter Scott; Toronto: W. J. Gage & Co.

This volume of prose plays from the Norwegian forms the new issue of the "Camelot series." Prefixed to the plays the editor gives us an interesting biography of the author, whom he describes as "the chief figure of European significance that has appeared in the Teutonic world of art since Goethe," and sets forth the qualities upon which Norwegian poets and novelists claim recognition. The plays are three in number, and belong to the Social Dramas which have given Ibsen his fame, and which have earned praise for the excellencies of the Scandinavian stage. They are sharp and biting in their treatment of social life in Norway, and in the play especially which gives its title to the volume, there is a keen and ill-suppressed irony. The third play in the volume, "An Enemy of Society," seems to us the strongest of the three and the most dramatic. All of them however, are powerfully written, and we should imagine would prove effective on the stage.

BOOK OF DAY-DREAMS. By Charles Leonard Moore. Philadelphia, J. B. Lippincott & Co.

This luxurious little volume, printed on sumptuous drawing-paper, contains a hundred sonnets, the work of an American poet whose strong though somewhat sensuous verse we have before met, if we remember rightly, in a collection chiefly classical. The sonnets, which display imagination and literary skill in construction, with perhaps a too ornate taste, are without special motif, unless it be to sing the praises of Love and the joy of Desire, tempered by the limitations which death and the grave throw over life and its pleasures. We shall perhaps best indicate the worth of the book by sampling it. Here is a fair though sensuous specimen of the author's work:—

SONNET LXVI.

"Ay, let the world retake the gifts it gave,—
Ease, honor, all its fair-disguised harms;
I am content if Love but stay and have
My world within the rindure of her arms.
Condemned unto no business but to buy
Kisses with kisses, to heap joys amain,—
This is the fierriest kind of beggary;
Merchants may envy my quick-counted gain.
Ah, what a weary travel is our act,—
Here, there, and back again to seek some prize;
Friends who are wise their voyage do contract,
To the safe path between each other's eyes.
Come, my sweet mistress, love shall life outlast;
Let the world drift, for we are anchored fast."

The closing lines are weak, and "have" in the third line is a poor rhyme for "gave" in the first. "Buy and "beggary" also have the same defect. Sonnet IX, in a different vein, is a better example:—

"Soon is the echo and the shadow o'er,
Soon, we lie with lid-encumbered eyes,
And the great fabrics that we reared before
Crumble to make a dust to hide who dies.
Gone, and the empty and unstatued air
Keeps not the mould or gesture of our limbs,
But with investiture and garb as fair
Folds the next shape that to its circle swims.
Fools, so to paint our pageant grave with deeds,
And make division in the elements."