

## McGill News.

## THE MEDICAL DINNER.

The undergraduates in Medicine held their annual dinner at the Windsor Hotel, on Thursday evening, Dec. 4th, about 140 gentlemen sitting down to a bill-of-fare that would have satisfied a Sybarite. The dinner was on the whole a success especially for the first half of the programme, but the inordinate length of time to which it was protracted evidently proved too much for the 'staying' powers of most of the guests, for the end of the proceedings which did not occur until two o'clock in the morning saw but a small sprinkling of them at the table. The committee, whose labors we cannot too highly commend, had evidently denied themselves no trouble in the preparation of the dinner and were ably seconded by the competent co-operation of the Windsor officials.

After the dinner had been fully discussed, the Secretary to the Committee read letters of regret from His Excellency the Marquis of Lansdowne, His Honor Lieut.-Governor Masson, U. S. Consul-General Stearns, Sir. F. Hincks, Judge Mackay, Judge Torrance, H. McLennan, G. Hague, R. A. Ramsay, Joseph Hickson, H. Mackay, M. H. Gault, M.P., Hon. J. Hamilton, Andrew Allan, G. A. Drummond, A. F. Gault, Dr. Grant, Dr. McEachran, W. J. Mitchell,—president London, Ont. Hospital,—Dr. Roddick, Dr. Fenwick, and from Dr. Osler, whose name of course was cheered to the echo.

The Chairman, Mr. Harkin, in an amusing introductory speech traced the History of Dinning from the primitive *al fresco* repasts of the garden of Eden to those of the present day, with an exhaustive treatment of the Archaeology of Gastronomy. After sketching the evolution of the present Annual Undergraduates' Dinner from the primal germ of the first Footing Dinner of 1856, and contrasting the two most advantageously for the former, he went on to touch in an unwarlike moment on the subject of the Higher Education of Women. In describing, by-the-bye, the misfires that would probably be employed in a domestic conflict—an event which he threatened his audience would inevitably overtake such of them as chose their helpmeets from among the Highly Educated,—his speculations led him to the use of a geological term (as yet, we believe, not in currency) which nearly brought a fit upon the distinguished guest on his right. After a few more humorous remarks upon the same subject, he took his seat amid much applause.

The first toast on the card was that of "The Queen," having been drunk to the accompaniment of "The National Anthem," was followed by that of the Governor-General and "Lieut. Governor."

The next toast, to the "President of the United States," was proposed by Mr. D. McG. DeCov, who expressed the hearty good wishes of the company for their cousins across the border, among whom were so many of their friends, and by whom so many McGill graduates were adopted.

He was followed by a duet, "The Larboard Watch" sung by Messrs. Orton and Pomeroy, after which Prof. Penhallow rose to respond to the toast. He uttered a

regret for the absence of the President of the United States and expressed a belief that the mutual good feeling between Canadians and Americans would be perpetuated, especially in view of the result of the late elections. He emphasized the assertion that the unity between the two great English speaking nations was a real one and that most Americans looked upon England as the mother country and were proud to trace their descent from Englishmen. "The University" was proposed in a short speech by the second vice-chairman, Mr. A. D. McDonald.

The Principal Sir William Dawson, who was received with enthusiastic cheers, took for the text of this reply the quotation appended to the toast:—

*Thanks for the Lessons of this Spot.*

In taking advantage of the dubious application of the words "this spot," he divided his remarks so as to cover both the lessons of the dinner table and the lessons to be learned from the University. The latter were the interdependence of Graduates and Professors, their mutual debts, and community of interests. The generosity of our *Alma Mater*, he urged upon his hearers, should be repaid fully and with interest by her *alumni* with efforts to promote the welfare of the University abroad and at home, and "to raise the name of McGill in the history of the world." In touching upon the lessons of the Dinner table he referred to a proposition broached upon a similar occasion last year, namely the erection of a dining hall for the use of the undergraduates. After dating the concurrence of opinion upon the subject among the heads of the University he proceeded to assure the undergraduates that at no distant date their assembling together for dining purposes would be changed from an annual to a daily occurrence, citing the instance of the historic ant (by the way we thought it was a *spider*) as an example of the perseverance of the McGill authorities in matters of reform. Proceeding then to a discussion of Female Education he criticised the premises and deductions drawn from the character of Eve as an uneducated person were very different from those that might have been deduced had that lady been a graduate of McGill. In conclusion he re-assured his hearers that Mr. Harkin's threats were idle, that all they had to fear from 'sweet girl graduates' was their possible superiority in examinations, and hoped that they would meet no worse fate than the possessions of one of these ladies for a wife.

After the burst of applause which greeted the best speech of the evening, had subsided "the tuneful Choir" sang "*Alma Mater*."

"The Dean and Professors" was given as well by Mr. R. T. Irvine in a short speech, expressive of the esteem and veneration entertained by the students for their teachers, and bestowing a well-earned encomium upon labours which, he feared, obtained scarcely a tithe of the praise they deserved.

The heartiness of the cheers that greeted Mr. Irvine's speech testified to the sincerity of the undergraduate feeling toward their professors.

Dr. R. P. Howard, the Dean of the Medical Faculty, in reply, thanked the students for their cordial reception of the toast, stating his conviction that it was no conventional tribute born of the occasion, but the ex-