

## Queen's University Journal

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

N. M. LECKIE, - - - Editor.  
J. J. HARPELL, - - - Business Manager.  
L. W. Jones, W. E. Playfair, P. W. Wilgar,  
G. F. Weatherhead, W. C. Brown, A. Redmond,  
G. B. McLennan, T. H. Billings, Miss H. Smirle,  
Miss L. Vaux, Miss M. Redden.

Subscriptions \$1.00 per year; single copies 15c.

Communications should be addressed to the Editor or to the Business Manager, Box 141, Kingston Post Office.

### Editorials.

It is not often that the writer of these editorial pages has the opportunity of listening to the proceedings of the Young Men's Christian Association, but in a more or less impersonal fashion the JOURNAL is able to ascertain the trend of the various discussions which are carried on at the Friday afternoon meetings. For a long time there has been some ground for the notion that these meetings kept a closed door against the application of philosophical and historical methods to the truths of religion. Of late, however, this restriction seems to have been breaking down and several addresses have been given by the older students which show much breadth and liberality of thought. If this tendency is persevered in and if the liberality at the same time is deepened by a healthy conservatism of temper, the Friday gatherings will attract a larger class of students and will fill a more important place in the life and activity of the college.

It is inevitable that along with such a development there must be considerable difference of opinion with regard to the various themes which are brought under discussion. The policy adopted by the society is one of ex-

treme freedom of speech, and an invitation is given to all members to express themselves, irrespective of their academic standing. It may be questioned by some whether this is a wise policy or not, but the leaders of the society are no doubt well advised in the matter. The result of this method, however, is that the remarks of students who have passed through a long course of reflection and discipline are sometimes challenged by men who are only at the outset of their careers and who are therefore unable to appreciate the ground of those who are more advanced. If a few years' residence at a university has any significance at all there must surely be some distinction between men who are just coming up and those who have been for some time in contact with the culture and the ideas which the university embodies. A true university stands on higher latitudes of thought than do the young men who are at high schools and elsewhere preparing to enter the university. When this distinction is appreciated by new comers it will generally result in the younger men waiting in silence for a few years until they have breathed something of the new atmosphere. If they feel compelled to speak they should do so in the full recognition of their own limitations and incompleteness, seeking for guidance from those who are in advance of them rather than claiming to speak with as much authority as they.

Several years ago a student who is now in a distant part of the world, and not likely to see his words quoted here, rose in the Y.M.C.A. meeting and said bluntly that in his opinion the majority of students were better men in every way when they entered college than when they left; the speaker was