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Editorial Topics.

A NOTE ON THE DINNER.

THE annual Convocation dinner, of which an extended report will be found in another page, was, as usual, a brilliant event in University life, the whole affair passing off with a spirit and vim happily characteristic of this favourite function. This year a prominent feature of the evening's festivities was the reception accorded to the Rev. Dr. Clark, Trinity's widely-known and esteemed Professor of Philosophy. When he rose to reply to the toast to the Faculty, the cheering and applause amounted to a perfect ovation. But it was evident to all present that the ovation was not wholly in honour of the distinguished Professor himself, for in the gallery amongst the ladies was his wife, and this was the first opportunity afforded to Trinity men, past and present, of heartily welcoming Dr. and Mrs. Clark since their marriage. No welcome could have been heartier or more sincere.

SERMONS. WHILEST there are many questions connected with our Chapel services, which a layman will justly hesitate to enter the question of sermons is an exception. One of the greatest masters of the English pulpit has said, with a certain touch of irony, that a sermon "inevitably puts us upon an act of religion: if good, it invites us to a profitable hearing; if otherwise, it inflicts a short penance, and gives an opportunity to the virtue of patience." But the students may, perhaps, be

allowed some voice as regards those exhortations which are addressed to them every Sunday, and they may speak with the freedom which none but students can enjoy. It is in the interests of the whole University that they should so speak; for it is not merely that the wise doctor will gladly listen to the experience of the patient, but that the sermons preached in the University Chapel are almost exclusively addressed to students, and if the sermons fall dead upon their minds and hearts they are purposeless. We say this from no want of appreciation of the conscientious, labourious, and often able work which the clergy of the University discharge in respect of this part of their spiritual duties. But any modification of the present system, which would infuse more life and reality into the somewhat conventional and formal character of so many of our sermons, is most desirable. It is constantly remarked that there is no audience so difficult to preach to as one composed of students. The fact is that no preacher can hope to make much impression on our ordinary Chapel congregation unless the special requirements and temperaments of the students are carefully and sympathetically studied. Sermons preached to students should be prepared especially for students and with a complete understanding of student life. They should, for the most part, be practical and personal, dealing with all the trials, and temptations, all the vicissitudes of individual and corporate life. There is no sign that our little world, any more than the greater world without us, can dispense with the art of the preacher. The University clergy are in duty bound to give us of their best. Rightly or wrongly many of our men believe that it is considered that no special effort is required for the Chapel sermon and that the cream is reserved for the city churches, where the services of the Trinity clergy are in such constant and urgent demand.

As various erroneous notions with regard to the use and supply of beer in Trinity College have obtained considerable credence abroad,

we wish to state for the information of those interested in the matter that the facts are these: Up to the first of this month it has been possible for our men to obtain beer at the College butteries whenever it was required, either for dinner or for supper. Notwithstanding the criticisms of outsiders, who knew nothing at all about the matter, and who seem to think that the regulations of a Divinity School should be applied to a University, the system was found to work well and the privilege was rarely abused. It was found that the secret introduction of spirits into the University buildings was stopped by this enlightened policy and that the men were trained in habits of self-restraint and a sense of personal responsibility. Habitual over-indulgence was a thing unknown, and if, perchance, anyone overstepped the bounds of propriety he found very quickly that the general sentiment of the men was opposed to such lapses. It is hardly necessary to remark that this sentiment, which has conspicuously strengthened during the past decade, is much more potent in student life than all the rules and regulations that ever a University adopted or faculty devised. But unfortunately a knowledge of the true state of affairs was confined to those immediately concerned, and, presumably from the mere fact that Trinity was not a prohibition institution, there began to arise