

THE VARSITY

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Toronto, October 20, 1904.

One of the most munificent gifts that it has ever been the good fortune of the University to receive is the recent donation to the Museum made by Mr. Byron E. Walker. During the last few years efforts have been made to establish a museum of palaeontology and the initial steps in this direction have been facilitated, and the procuring by purchase of many new specimens rendered possible, by the increased liberality of the Government. It is as an addition to this museum that Mr. Walker's gift is made. Mr. Walker has been for many years an enthusiastic palaeontologist, and has acquired not only a large number of specimens, Canadian and foreign, but also what is undoubtedly the most complete palaeontological library in Canada. Mr. Walker, as a member of the Board of Trustees, is known to be one of the best friends of the University, and now that the museum in the new Science Building is about completed, and proper safe-keeping is provided for all specimens, he is prepared to hand over to the University both his library and his whole collection. New cases for the accommodation of the specimens are being made. These are dust-proof and are artistically made of antique oak. They are to be moved shortly into the new museum of palaeontology and the initial steps in the present one in the Biological Building, is in every way inadequate.

Dr. Parks informs us that during the past year he has received from Mr. Walker much material of great value—some thousands of specimens—including several hundred rare European Ammonites, a large collection of Quebec Graptolites, a series of interesting forms from Panama, rare Cenozoic fossils from South America, a large number of European Mesozoic forms, and many Ontario examples, particularly the rare Cystids from the Niagara at Grimsby.

As soon as proper accommodation is provided the balance of the collection will be donated. This consists of a magnificent series of Crinoids, an excellent set of rare Canadian forms and many valuable specimens difficult to duplicate. The library also will be presented. In it are hundreds of valuable volumes, complete sets of Canadian and United States geological reports, besides rare volumes of the early writers on the subject.

This splendid donation, added to the material already acquired, at once places the Palaeontological museum in a position of importance. Not only does it remove a long-felt want, but it furnishes a great incentive to increased activity in the special work of museum expansion.

A very considerable intrinsic value is attached to Mr. Walker's gift by virtue of numbers alone, but the great rarity of certain forms, and the impossibility of duplicating others, gives an almost priceless value to the collection from a University point of view. Varsity would wish to extend most gratefully to Mr. Walker the thanks of the student body for this marked proof of his interest both in the cause of Geology and in that of the University of Toronto.



Editorial Notes

The School of Practical Science has again captured the I. C. C. cup. We congratulate the School.

Because of the illness of Dr. Willmott, the "Outlook" of the Dental College has not been contributed. We hope to publish it later.

It is the intention of Varsity to print each month a selected list of about twenty of the best new books added to the Library during the month.

We regret that in our last issue, under the heading "Donation to Physics," the name of Professor J. C. McLennan should have been omitted through a typographical error.

We notice that The Globe, The Telegram and The Star are all running columns of University news in their Saturday editions.

Note carefully the Sporting Editor's exhortation, "Give no yells, but T-o-r-o-n-t-o, and M-c-G-i-l-l."

The Editor or one of the Editorial Board will be in the Sanctum every day from 12 m. to 1 p. m. to meet those who in any way may be interested in Varsity.