

WE have almost determined that the amount of vigor manifested by an Alma Mater Society forms a very fair index of the life of the College with which it is in connection. The only thing that deters us from committing ourselves to this opinion is the fact that we would not like the prosperity of Queen's to be gauged by the present state of its chief Society. There is no room for argument in the statement that this Society should be the most vigorous and interesting in connection with the College. This should be the case for many reasons. It is the students representative in the same sense that the Senate is the representative of professors. And as the latter use the Senate to convey their wishes to the students, it is quite natural that students should use this Society as a means of approach to the Senate. The most important part of the Society's work, however, is not so much in the means of communication which it gives between student and professor, neither is it in strengthening the ties of union between students which must exist in every successful college, but it consists rather in the training which it gives us for after life. It makes us acquainted with the manner of conducting public business, trains us for exerting an influence on men's minds and, what is most important, removes that feeling of embarrassment so prejudicial to our success, and which in after years is so hard to dismiss. Again, after a week's hard work, when the mental strain is removed, and when the rebound "sets the heart on longing" for pleasant social union, it seems the most natural thing in the world that students should look forward to the Alma Mater meeting with the greatest pleasure. It must be confessed that this is not the case to that extent which we might wish. Because the benefits accruing from connection with this Society, as well as the penalty for neglecting it, are not fully apparent till a student leaves college and takes his

intended position in life, and because union with the Society is quite voluntary the result is that many altogether ignore its claims. Some readers of this article may complain that the meetings are not interesting enough to secure their attendance. We would ask these gentlemen what right they have to expect others to furnish entertainment for them during the session unless they are also willing to furnish their quota to the general fund of enjoyment. Although already this session some remarkably good speaking has been done we must admit that the start off has not been enthusiastic enough to carry us on to that point of improvement which we would desire. And, now, at the beginning of the session when a committee has been appointed to formulate "rules of procedure," we would invite all to join in reforming what is weak in the Society, and in adding what will tend to its success. Many suggestions might be made did space permit. The more our attention has been called to this matter, the firmer becomes our belief that the meetings of our Alma Mater do not partake sufficiently of a social character. One great element in success of any meeting is music. As the Society at present possesses no instrument we are debarred from this great enjoyment, but it seems to us that till this want is supplied many enjoyable evenings may be spent in practice of College songs. It is true that this might be made the occasion of practice not very musical by some of the 'irrepressible,' but if they were occasionally withered up by the look of a senior they would soon learn to stand on their good behaviour. At the last meeting a very important project was mooted, namely, the establishment of scholarships for the best speaker and best reader. This is too important a matter to occupy a subordinate place here. We may say more or it anon. To prove that the above suggestions are the best that can be brought forward is not our object. If any changes result from