

# THE VARSITY

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## Editorial Comments.



SKATING for this season is nearly over and hockey too, still the necessity of having a rink in close proximity to Varsity is none the less pressing. Why there is no such place of recreation we really cannot understand. The Hockey Club achieved great success this season, notwithstanding the want of a suitable place for practice.

A university like ours with over one thousand students in actual attendance on lectures, in arts, medicine and science, not counting those in the affiliated theological colleges, Knox, Wycliffe, etc., should provide some adequate means of recreation during the winter months and not force them to seek it elsewhere, and what better means than a suitable place for skating, hockey and curling? We have the material to furnish a hockey team which should take the lead in the Province, a curling club which might enter into competition for the Ontario Tankard, a regular Porter, Orton and McColl in skating as we have in running. At present we have no means of stirring what hidden strength exists among our students. We have had an excellent football club, and why not a hockey team; a good baseball team, and why not a curling club; a renowned sprinter, and why not a skater? At present our sports virtually terminate with the coming of the snow. Such would not be the case were a suitable rink provided.

Who are to blame for this we are unable to say, but it is our opinion a great deal of the culpability rests with the students themselves on account of their lethargy and inactivity. The Senate, because of its financially embarrassed condition, cannot render us the assistance they otherwise would, but we are sure that it would cast no stumbling-blocks in the way of a concerted effort on the part of the student-body to bring about the erection of such a building on condition that they would share, in some measure, the expenses connected therewith. The money spent by the students in attending the city rinks, we are convinced, would be sufficient to pay the interest on the amount necessary to erect a rink of our own.

It is to be hoped that this matter will be dealt with in the near future, and not allow another winter to pass without suitable provision being made for this most healthy exercise.

We have received several contributions without the signature of the writer subscribed, and others whose names we cannot possibly decipher. Such articles will be preserved by us, but will not be inserted until the other matter we have on hand has been sent to press. We are always happy to receive such favors, but those with signatures attached always take precedence over anonymous letters. At present we are overburdened with poetry, some of which we would gladly exchange for some good literary prose article.

## SCHOOL OF SCIENCE FORMAL OPENING.

Last Wednesday evening saw the long-looked-for "Opening" of the School of Science in full progress. The building never before looked so bright and attractive. Without, every window was a blaze of light, and the approaches to the entrances were the scenes of thronging carriages and guests; within, the whole building was attired in its gayest garb. The corridors, lecture-rooms, laboratories and drafting-rooms were decorated with flags and bunting, drawings, paintings, sketches and models. Every part of the building had its special attractions, and was accordingly well patronized. At half-past seven the guests began to arrive, and from that time till late in the evening the Reception Committee, composed of students, was kept exceedingly busy. For an hour or more the entrance halls were a constant scene of activity, and oftentimes the thronging stream of arriving visitors were more than could be comfortably attended to by the Reception Committee. By observing the guests as they entered the building, one would arrive at the conclusion that nearly "everybody" was coming—here was a member of the Legislature, there a gowned arts man with his best girl, next a party of citizens, invited with glowing pride by some designing student of engineering, next a cabinet minister and party, a high functionary bidden from some remote city, a member of the Senate, the faculty of the University and Colleges, and so on. According to the programme of the proceedings, it was expected that everybody was to ascend to the Convocation Hall for the first part of the ceremonies, to hear the addresses and speeches. This *everybody* forthwith did, and the consequence was that before the building had been opened twenty minutes, the hall, capable of seating fourteen hundred people, was packed to overflowing, and when, at eight o'clock, the faculty and those guests who had seats on the platform sought admission to the hall, it was with the utmost difficulty they obtained entrance so great was the crush. As soon as the speeches commenced the doors of the hall were closed, and the late arriving guests were deprived of the privilege of hearing the speakers, and were, consequently, to be seen wandering about the immense building, of which all except the machine laboratories was open. To those who were gathered in the Assembly Hall the first two hours of the evening was passed very pleasantly and profitably, in hearing addresses from representatives from the Legislature, faculty and sister institutions.

The Hon. G. W. Ross, as chairman, opened the proceedings and gave a short historical account of the growth of the College since its institution in 1878. He addressed words of welcome to the visitors to the formal opening of the School, and then called on Professor Galbraith, the Principal of the School, to deliver an address. The professor was received with cheers from the students, and, when the excitement had subsided, announced as his subject, "Technical Education." After defining the term he pointed out the aims and functions of a technical school in how far a scientific education at college fits a man for professional work as an engineer. A school of applied science is intended merely to give a student the necessary preliminary training in the scientific branches of the profession, and after he graduates he is expected to acquire such practical education as will make him at once a well-educated, thorough and practical engineer. With this in view he proceeded to give a synopsis of the work which is expected to be accomplished in the School of Practical Science when all arrangements for the course are com-