

the alternative plan, he is satisfied with dwelling on its advantages, and makes no mention of its difficulties and defects. How, for instance, would he distinguish between relative degrees of *need*? He says truly that all are needy. Certainly all students are; at least three-fourths of them would like a little more money than they have, and if borrowing were made easy, if for instance, they could get money without interest, they would probably make application. Would the committee in charge of the fund then give to him who made the poorest mouth, or would they go into an odious investigation of the ways and means, the resources and habits, of each applicant? Things may be bad now, but they would be worse then. We would be out of the frying-pan into the fire. A good many more difficulties could easily be suggested, the most formidable being that the plan somewhat resembles the killing of the goose that laid the golden eggs. Give away your thousand dollars in the form of loans, and it is possible that you might get seven or eight hundred back the next year, but hardly probable. Next year the student is as hard up as ever. Even should he leave college, and begin the study of law or medicine, expenses have increased. Should he go into the Church, he of course gets married, and then he can pay old debts only by denying his wife a sealskin jacket. But we are not arguing the question just now, but only suggesting some of the difficulties of the alternative plan. We shall be happy to hear from correspondents on the subject.

THE Alma Mater Branch of the Q. U. E. A. was formed about the close of last session, and has now 70 members from among the graduates of last year and the students at college. The classes that entered this year are larger than ever before, and we expect our membership for '87 to be greatly increased. Those who join this Association

must feel that they are acting as worthy members of their Alma Mater when they give a yearly donation for the Endowment of the institution that advances so many of her sons to honor.

Hitherto, we have only privately reminded the members of the Alma Mater Branch of their fee for '86, and generally that is all that is needed. Some of our members, however, are gone from us and we fear they have forgotten to pay their fee. We trust that no one will sever his connection with the Alma Mater Branch without having first sealed his connection in a tangible way. We can part with our members honorably, only when they connect themselves with other branches formed throughout the country. Our first report must soon be presented to the Alma Mater Society, and we hope it will be an encouraging one.

The JOURNAL is no doubt taken by all members of the Association, and it would be a simple convenience if this notice were enough to remind all members of their duty to their Alma Mater. The fee to the Endowment Association may be sent with the subscription to the JOURNAL. Both are urgently requested.

ONE of the best speeches at the Seniors' Re-union this year was made by the representative sent by Toronto University. "You seem to have had a boom this year in politics," he said, "and we have had a boom in athletics." As to his opinion about the two booms he left his hearers in no doubt. Canada, he declared, was afflicted with the party curse, and most of the Toronto students had no faith in either of the present parties. Why, then, should students form themselves into mere joints in the tails of organizations that are based mainly on dead issues? A University education is intended to give men a discipline that will enable them to form independent opinions. Students ought to