

Ontario Normal College Monthly

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THE meetings of the Literary and Scientific Society have been so far this term full of life and interest. It was to be expected that when the members came to know each other better, they would find their bearings and feel less diffidence in expressing themselves on matters of common concern to the student body and therefore to the Society. For as we are united in the one Society, that Society is the student body. And it must register an opinion on practically everything, excepting athletics, which involves the interests of all the students. As a consequence we have now so much business to transact in the meetings of the Society, that little time is left for a programme.

WE have heard it said that squabbling over points of order, notices of motion, or constitutional technicalities is of little or no benefit compared with the graver argumentation of ordered debate. Some would have the business part of our meetings rushed through "any way to get there." Nobody of course wishes to obstruct proceedings by impertinent speeches or by needless haggling over trifles. We all desire dispatch in the transaction of the business. But the outcome of the "rush" method is often a determined blocking of operations by those who believe in system, ending sometimes in a dead-lock. There are many reasons why parliamentary procedure should be

rigidly adhered to in our meetings. Law is as essential as life. If rules of order are needed in more important assemblies, to prevent confusion and expedite business, we also should be guided by them. Besides, one of the great ends of a college society is the preparation of its members to act in the larger affairs of the world with dignity and decision. Any one who learns in our Society how a meeting should be conducted, and how to conduct it, has acquired more practical experience than another who has taken part in a debate or two and listened half asleep to half a dozen.

In the discussion of points of order and the various business matters, the student gains a power of prompt speech, an alertness, and a ready tact which formal debating would hardly develop. He has to get on his feet and fight for himself as the occasion demands. He forms a habit of initiative, acting for himself with a confident independence, and knowing what he wants. Many a college graduate looking back to the nights at the old "Lit.," remembers little of the formal debates in which he did or did not participate. His memories wander back to the animated business discussions, to the personal encounters perhaps, and to the rough and tumble battles of the Mock Parliament. That is what did him permanent good.

There are then opportunities for development in business discussions, which the formal debate does not offer. Who would smother these discussions for the sake of a trivial programme of songs and recitations? It may be admitted that the set