

U. C. COLLEGE LITERARY SOCIETY.

EIGHTEENTH MEETING.

The Society met in the Prayer-room, April 26th—the President (W. A. Langton) in the chair. After the roll was called, the minutes of the last meeting were read by the Secretary, and adopted.

E. B. Brown then rose to explain. He thought he had been harshly dealt with, and that the Society should have accepted his excuse last meeting. He said that it was a case of real sickness, and no shamming. He always prepared his debates, and had proved himself an attentive and hard-working member. Taking all these facts into consideration, he thought that the Society could not refuse to accept these further explanations in the spirit in which they had been offered. The Society, who evidently felt deeply for the injured member, magnanimously accepted his explanations, and the matter dropped.

There being no other business on hand the election of officers was next proceeded with. The Vice-Presidency was warmly contested by two fifth-form boys, resulting in the election of Peter Bryce, by a majority of twelve. The office of Chancellor of the Society's Exchequer being vacant, was obtained by W. B. Northrup, who ran in over two other competitors for that sinecure, the Treasurership.

W. H. Biggar was then appointed chairman for the debate, which, in the absence of the two readers, was immediately taken up. The subject was, "Would the Nine-hours movement, if adopted, prove advantageous, or otherwise?" The affirmative was feelingly sustained by E. B. Brown, supported by G. Blackstock, while they were opposed by A. W. McTaggart and W. G. Mowat on the negative. After an interesting debate, the chairman decided that the movement, if adopted, would prove advantageous. When the President had resumed the chair, a vote of thanks was tendered to the chairman.

The following announcement was then made:

Subject for debate: "Is Country Life preferable to City Life?" Affirmative, R. Atkinson (leader); negative, W. H. Atkins (leader). Readers, E. B. Brown and W. A. Langton.

The officers for the ensuing quarter are as follows:

President—J. G. McKeown, VI. Form.
 Vice-President—P. Bryce, V. Form.
 Secretary—R. Atkinson, VI. Form.
 Treasurer—W. B. Northrup, IV. Form.
 Committee { W. A. Langton, VI. Form.
 E. B. Brown, V. Form.
 J. A. Paterson, V. Form.

NINETEENTH MEETING.

The Society met in the Prayer-room, May 3rd, the President, J. G. McKeown, in the chair. After the roll had been called, the minutes of last meeting were read and adopted.

The President then rose to deliver his inaugural. He said that his first duty in the observations he was about to address to the Society was to make his personal acknowledgments on the occasion which had brought him to that place, and that the pleasure he had received from this movement of the Society in electing him their President, and the honour which had been so generously bestowed by them, was almost entirely unlooked for by him. He stated also that the usage which had of late grown up, viz., that of the person whom the Society had called to its Presidency making a few observations in his address on the object and general progress of the Society, seemed to him very commendable. He said that in seeing before him those, some of whom would perchance ere long be "the arbiters of the weal or woe of nations," those who would have to supply the place of the poets and statesmen, who were now

growing old, it occurred to him that it was a matter of no slight moment how they were being prepared for the task. Assuredly if they would alone do much to better the condition of the human race, they would have to improve greatly, and what place, he asked, was better for mental improvement than these so-called "literary societies?" He said that there was no situation in life in which mental culture failed to do good. It added "lustre to the loftiest position; it cheered the lowest lot; it increased the pleasures of prosperity, and was a comfort in adversity; it adorned the rich and noble, while at the same time it refined the poor and despised. He then said that if mental culture tended so much to elevate the mind, and introduce a taste for higher and more sublime thoughts, it must be of great importance, and if so important, it was needful that every means which could be employed for its accomplishment should be prominently brought forward. In referring to the progress of the Society during the last term, he remarked that there was a great improvement, and to ensure further improvement, he would only remind them that harmony must ever reign among the members, and that full preparation for the debate be never neglected. Reviewing the principal motions passed during the term, he showed the benefits the Society had received from the passing of the motion by which a majority of the Society had complete control over its By-laws and Rules of Order. He stated that the thought of having a public debate had no doubt passed by universal consent into a matter of the past, and he said that the Society did not feel itself prepared at the present time to have a public debate. The motion, which was passed, threatening to expel leaders on debate who absented themselves without just excuse, he said, had produced its desired effect, namely, to secure the attendance of the leaders. He showed that the admission of Fifth Form boys members of the Society as honorary members the year after they have left College, would tend to increase the number of the honorary members, an object greatly to be desired, as the honorary members who used often to visit the Society, were now seldom present at the meetings. He then stated that the last subject on which he would speak, and on which he had great pleasure in congratulating the Society, was the very prosperous condition of the *College Times*. The slight opposition with which it had at first met, was now entirely gone. Since its commencement every issue had been growing better and better. Its financial state was highly satisfactory, which was no doubt owing to the good management of the Committee. Already there had appeared five issues, half of the whole number, and the rest would appear at regular intervals. On behalf of the Editors, and especially the Managing Editor of the paper, he asked the members of the Society to contribute more liberally to its columns than they had been doing, and thus to accomplish the object for which the paper had been established. He referred to the joy with which its every edition had been hailed, and the manner in which it had been sometimes criticized, often quoted by the masters.

In closing his remarks, he said that the Society had, up to the present time, been increasing, not only in numbers, but also in the power and knowledge of debate, and that it was their duty not to be content with the little knowledge they had already acquired, but still to persevere. He asked them to remember that although they could not learn everything in a day, or mount at once to the pinnacle of fame, still they could advance gradually. He concluded his remarks by quoting the following lines, which are specially applicable to the members of the Society:

"We have not wings, we cannot soar,
 But we have feet to scale and climb,
 But slow degrees, by more and more,
 The cloudy summits of our time."

The President was several times interrupted by hearty applause, and after he had resumed his seat, the Vice-President, Secretary and Treasurer returned thanks for the honour the Society had done them, and although they were totally unfit for the position, still they hoped to be able to discharge its duties with fidelity, etc., etc.

E. B. Brown then presented his report as the retiring Treasurer, and signified that the funds were low, but the Society was still able to pay its way. This report was adopted by the Society.

The President retained his seat during the readings, E. B. Brown giving a selection from Sir Walter Scott, and W. A. Langton, Hood's "Eugene Aram."

R. Atkinson moved the adjournment of the debate, as one of the leaders had not been notified in time, and consequently had not been able to prepare his side of the question. Carried.

The following announcement was then made for next meeting; debate as before; and readers, T. Blackstock and F. E. Hodgins.

The Society they adjourned.

ABSENCE.

"What! keep a week away? seven days and nights?
 O dreary reckoning!"

Shakespeare.

The many different characters and dispositions of boys to be dealt with in a vast educational institution like our College, render the adoption of some general rules necessary for the maintenance of order and discipline within its walls. When, in a majority of cases, a rule is found to work well, and to do justice on all occasions save those of a peculiar character, it is better to make no exceptions if possible. But in very few instances is such a regulation discovered which gives that degree of universal satisfaction, and it would seem that the rule relating to absentees obtaining their former place in a form is by no means one of that kind. It provides, that any boy remaining away from College for a whole week from sickness or family affliction, is entitled to resume his place on his return, and only in that case. Now this may seem a broad and fair principle to lay down, and there is no doubt that it in many cases deals justice to the absentee and to the rest of his form; yet, when it comes to be looked into, one can see many instances which are just as deserving of attention as those above mentioned. A boy—a hard-working boy, let us suppose—is attacked by a violent, though perhaps only a short-lived sickness. He has to remain away, and if in the boarding house, receives his excuse from the master of that establishment. Is this boy not quite as deserving, and should he not receive quite as much consideration as a lazy fellow who has a slight cold for a couple of days (not enough to prevent a promenade on King Street in the afternoon) and remains away for a week, so as to retain whatever step upward he may have gained from his accustomed seat among the *Dii Inferi*. And yet cases of the former kind have been known to occur, and the results have always been that the week's absence triumphantly takes his former position and the other "goes down." In like manner, many other circumstances will arise which will utterly prevent a boy's attendance at College on a certain day, and for which he is not in any degree responsible. But it must not be supposed that the sweeping entirely away of such a regulation would be at all beneficial in its results. The only thing that is necessary is for the Principal to exercise his own judgment and allow a reasonable latitude in certain cases. It is to be hoped, for the benefit of College boys and the honour of this institution, that the Masters will give this matter their consideration (and then who will question the decision), and not go upon the absurd and exploded assumption that "Whatever is, is right." Cyclors.