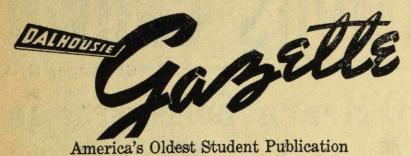
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For more than 76 years devoted to the interests of the student body.

What is the Matter with the Alumni?

issue of The Gazette, carrying in bold headline the caption, "Warm Feeling Toward Alma Mater at N. Y. Dal Club". It contained an account of the hearty reception given the president of the University during a visit to the Club's headquarters in the American metropolis. No doubt the speeches were eloquent and the handshaking impressive, but tangible evidence of this "warm feeling" remains conspicuous by its absence.

Earlier this month a reply was received to a letter sent last Spring to the New York Club soliciting subscriptions from among the members. It stated that though the letter had been read at the Club's next dinner, and an appeal made, "the response was very poor". Only three subscriptions were offered, and one of these from a St. F. X. graduate who had never been at Dalhousie. A member of the clergy, he probably considered the act quite within his concept of Christian charity. (It is to the credit of the N.Y. Club that they at least replied. Similar letters sent to other clubs as yet are unanswered.)

Certainly this snub to The Gazette can not by any stetch of the imagination be interpreted as proof of a general lack of interest on the part of the Alumni for all things Dalhousie. Again, however, it is hardly an illustration of the contrary.

While it is possible that we are not in possession of a true picture of the situation, to the undergraduates the Alumni Association appears only to consist of a courageous little executive with not sufficient time for the task, and an imposing list of names and addresses, more than seven thousand in length, corresponding, it seems, to a like number of ex-Dal students now scattered far and wide over the continent. Those few of this aggregate who happen to be in the city on the occasion may or may not be persuaded by the aforementioned executive to put in an appearance at the annual Alumni Smoker-for more speech-making and hand-shaking-while others, residing in places more removed from their alma mater, also apparently attend the odd dinner of the old boys. Further than this, with one or two outstanding exceptions, their inclination seldom takes them, whereas the vast majority never get this far.

Nor is this attitude so startling to the undergraduates. For, daily, as they progress from year to year, they can discern it growing upon themselves. New students, regardless of what preconceived notions of college spirit they may bring away from their respective

• A NEWS ITEM was published in a recent high schools, soon learn from the seniors that Dalhousie is not a united, living community of scholars, each bound to the other with common interests, but merely a collection of buildings and professors, a place where one may spend a part of every day for a set length of time and eventually secure a particular degree. Rather than made conscious of any obligation they owe to the University, they are taught by example to take it completely for granted, and to them, when they leave, it becomes little more than a few passive memories.

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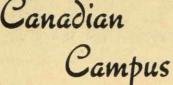
Associate editors:

And thus, when the whole case of a disloyal and disinterested Alumni is presented to the "delinquent" Alumnus, his reaction echoes traditional Dalhousie sentiments: "Well, what else is expected?" Indeed, what else is expected? As an undergraduate the Alumnus ought to have learned to cherish in a special way the little world where he and his friends spent some of the best years of their lives; he ought to have developed a singular attachment for the institution that prepared him for his little niche in the great social machine; and he ought to remember that this institution was brought into existence and made available to him only through the labor of previous generations, and that now the torch has been passed on to him, along with the strong moral responsibility of first perpetuing the work and then expanding and raising it to new heights for the uses of posterity.

In concrete terms, he is expected to take an active part in promoting the interests of the present student body, and either to subscribe or in some manner obtain funds for the purchase of more modern and better equipment, that the University may maintain its high position in the ranks of educational institutions.

During the past two years McGill Alumni has raised a half million dollars for expansion purposes after having canvassed only 4,500 of its members. The executive made a personal tour across the nation soliciting subscriptions. A similar sum would go a long way toward the financing of the new Arts and Science building planned for this campus, but as yet without a penny for its construction. Both McGill and Queen's have set up Alumni employment agencies through which all graduates are placed in jobs, agencies operating essentially on the "patronage" system—alumni members in key posts hiring only fellow members. Such an organization will shortly be in dire need at Dalhousie.

These things can and must be done at this University, and, because we prefer to remain independent and shun the shackels of government and religious affiliations, the responsibility for seeing that they are done rests squarely upon the shoulders of the Alumni.



• "LET IT SNOW, let it snow, let it snow!" is the refrain on all campi this January for, according to Canadian Campus information this week, skiing is far and away the favourite winter sport of university students from east to west of the country. Skating and hockey run near seconds and various indoor sports are popular, but when conditions are right rinks, pools, badminton and squash courts are neglected as people pack themselves into trains and buses and head for neighboring ski runs.

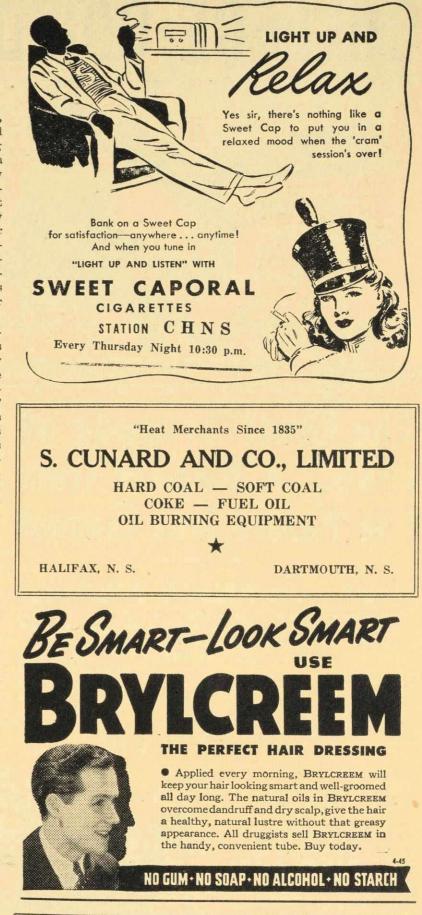
Weather conditions cause opportunities for the sport to vary across Canada, but everywhere right now a snowflake is as welcome as the first sign of spring. The Laurentian area is, of course, the skiiers' paradise and the facilities this "little piece of Switzerland" offers are made full use of by universities in the district. On all campi reporting this week the sport is organized by clubs which arrange expeditions, competition, and, although they take their skiing seriously, social activities.

At McGill a general weekly exodus being Friday when ski slacks are worn to classes. On Monday, weary athletes return on earlymorning trains and, still wearing ski slacks, go back to classes. Sun and wind burn is prevalent. Competitive races are the highlight of the sport for all Quebec universities and McGill has two ski teams of high calibre. The club ski house at Shawbridge is a centre for cross country runs while right in Montreal is Mount Royal where floodlights permit after-school skiing.

In the east skating seems to have a slight edge in popularity over skiing since good skating conditions can usually be depended on. With the temperature dropping well below zero Mount Allison students now have perfect ice on which to work off that excess energy but fingers are still being kept crossed for a good snow fall. Skiers work under a handicap because as well as the snow, the number of close hills is limited.

There's lots of snow in Manitoba this year and Sunday ski expeditions to Sun Valley, Lock-port and La Riviere are organized by an energetic club. In addition two buses visit good skiing territory in the province every week. Manitoba also reports a vigorous movement which is under way to rebuild Varsity hockey, neglected for the last six years.

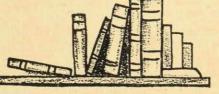
Ottawa University has a newly rganized ski club and plans this



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Relatively Speaking



"I think that I shall never see A man who loves his family tree."

THE Family Tree, in itself, is an admirable institution which no mere mortal would care to dispute. However, one is forced to take issue with the fatuous methods whereby remote branches and twigs of the austere Tree are nurtured and coddled by the blessings of goodwill and diplomacy.

Typical of this trend are the Christmas presents relatives consider so very appropriate for Jackie-the inevitable white handkerchief "with love from Aunt Nora", and the traditional drab and colorless tie from Uncle Bob.

Jackie then turns hypocrite, under Mother's compulsion, to thank Aunt Nora for "the lovely hanky which is greatly appreciated", and Uncle Bob for his beautiful tie "which serves a very useful purpose."

Such articles are generally relegated to the farthest corner of the attic, whence Mother rescues them a year later for the white-elephant table of the church bazaar.

Equally artificial and unnecessary is the practice of visiting distant family connections with Mother. "They particularly want to see you, dear, so try to be your own charming self."

We all know what happens. Two or three ladies rush to meet you at the door baring their fangs in raptures of delight. When this uncalled-for pleasantry has petered out, the crowd merges into the livingroom, the ladies break into frenzied chatter, and you are isolated in a corner with a peppermint lozenge.

HOMES might well be spared the annual prolonged visit from Great Aunt Ella. This individual

arrives without fail every winter along with the influenza and snow-drifts. From the largest chair in the warmest corner, she delights to denounce all things modern, to adjudicate on family controversies, and to disrupt the household system. After a month or so, she feels she can be of no further help, and sorrowfully departs to fresher fields.

We could also do without such remarks as: "My, how you've grown, dear boy!", and "Give your own Cousin Bessie a big kiss!", or "Last time I saw you, you were just-so-o-o-high." This drivel usually eminates from the lips of careworn spinisters who drop in every decade to express bewildered surprise that Jackie has grown up in the interval.

Etiquette frequently forces us to sacrifice our evenings for the dubious honor of escorting Third Cousin Lottie to the cinema. "Make this small sacrifice dear", says Mother. "It will mean so much to poor Lottie and we mustn't let the neighbors think we are neglecting our own flesh and blood."

The ensuing experience is one of great strain to the nervous system, and you wonder if the sacred cause of kinship is being served to any great advantage. When the weather, the family health, and the patience of both parties have been thoroughly exhausted, you bid each other a regretful adieu with the assertion that it was "a most pleasant evening", and that "we must go again sometime."

In conclusion, then, we make the wishful appeal that convention be tempered with mercy, and that the Family Tree make an effort to blossom forth to posterity in a normal way without exacting such reparations from its adherents.

-J. C. McL.

year to corral novice and expert alike into the fold. Competent instructors are holding ski schools to develop promising talent. The club is also sponsoring competitive intramural meets and is organizing parties and an ice festival.

Mid - Lothian Society Hold Many Meetings, Carry-on Full Program

• THIS YEAR as every year since the founding of the Midlothian Society in 1926, a group of girls meet each week at Shirreff Hall. At each meeting, during which refreshments are served, one of the members reviews a current book. Aside from being most enjoyable, these meetings enable the student to become familiar with a greater number of books than she alone could find time to read, and encourage general reading outside that pertaining to our classes. The membership is limited to fourteen undergraduates but former members are always welcome at our meetings.

Notice

Meeting of the Graduating Class in Room 3, Arts Building, Thursday, January 31. Business-Election of Convocation Committee; Election of Life Officers.

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