

that in the subjects of examination—geometry, trigonometry and algebra—Miss Burkholder had reached the recognized standard—75 per cent—of gold medallists of the universities.

The John Macdonald gold medal for Christian evidences, won by Miss Lillie Hardy, was presented by Rev. D. H. Fletcher. Miss Edith Robinson was second in this subject and received a silver medal.

When announcing the prize winners in art Dr. Burns expressed regret that Prof. Martin, a member of the faculty, was not present, as he could better deal with the subject than any one else. Mr. R. Duncan's prize for oil painting was won by Miss Eva McPhie and Miss Emma Smith, equal, and both young ladies were presented with their prizes by Mr. S. F. Lazier. Miss Clara Kitchen received honorable mention.

Rev. Mr. Riggsby presented the prize for crayon drawing to Miss Josephine Telfer, Miss Nellie Mulholland receiving honorable mention, and Dr. Burns presented Miss Edith Scott with the prize for pencil drawing. Miss Ella Leary received honorable mention for china painting.

Medals and diplomas won by Miss Edith Grafton, Miss Emma Smith, Miss Lottie Brethour and Miss Aleda A. Burns for paintings in oil at the Colonial and Indian Exhibition were then presented to those young ladies by Dr. Burns, which closed the ceremony of presentation.

Rev. Dr. Dewart, of Toronto, then addressed the meeting briefly upon the subject of education, and Dr. Burns said a few words in praise of the class of '87, after which the meeting closed with the singing of the National Anthem.

EXAMINATIONS.

Commencement week has in one respect lost its old-time attractions—the oral examinations and exhibitions to which parents and friends were warmly, yea urgently, invited. The loss was a serious one to those who might happily possess enough of confidence and skill to answer *at* the questions, and if not to meet them squarely, at any rate to show that they could talk *about* them. But the present system of written examinations is vastly superior in every respect as a test of scholarship, and much more satisfactory to both teachers and pupils. Hence we are glad that years ago our College adopted the written examinations exclusively in undergraduate work. Another great improvement was the introduction of outside examiners. To be sure, there is a little fear lest the papers might carry us into fields not thoroughly traversed in the class-room or covered by the lectures of our professors. But thus far these fears have been groundless. We believe that there is a general feeling among the students that they would rather have the papers from outside scholars than from their own teachers. The ruling passion constantly present to the teacher, to discover

the ignorance or weakness of a pupil, might possibly control them on examination day. But final examinations should not have that in view. It is the duty of teachers to discover the ignorance and defects of their pupils; they do it that they may remove or correct them. But the object of examinations should be to see if the work of the year has been done honestly and well; and as a matter of course, catch questions, or curious and frivolous ones, that might puzzle the faculty of Yale or Harvard, should be ruled out.

With the introduction of prizes comes another element. The question now is not simply, "Has the work been done well?" but "Who has done it best?" No student can justly object to a difficult paper on a subject properly taught, and to which reasonable time has been allotted. Indeed, we hear that the examinations are becoming more difficult every year, yet the classes are better pleased and the reports are more satisfactory.

The examinations just closed were a gratifying termination to a year of hard work. Some of our friends almost envy us the life of ease and pleasure that they fancy we lead in the dear old College. The examinations are to us girls the best vindication against such an idea of life. And if we catch the after words of the examiners—words that perhaps may have escaped the attention of the uninterested—and repeat them, our readers must indulge us for the nonce. It is human nature, you know, and girls are embraced in that broad category. One of the examination items was that the class in Psychology would be examined on the paper prepared for the Ph. D. course in a certain University. When the Rev. Mr. Stewart, examined in Toronto University, told us once at Commencement that he had found more papers in Psychology in our College that year than he had received from the class in the University, don't imagine that we lost our heads. Our Principal had prepared us for such a statement, and said, "Why not? You have the same books, have you not the brains?" Another item was the Rev. Dr. S. J. Hunter's report of the Biblical History class. "I have examined the papers in Biblical History. They are all exceedingly good, I must say, far better than so many candidates for the ministry would have done. This is the result, Eola 100, &c., &c." Well, we were not Eola, but we are satisfied that she deserved the mark.

Another item was the report on English literature from a gentleman who has made it a speciality. "I was greatly pleased with the answers to my paper, and especially with the young lady, Lona, at the head of the list. The papers were all good; the questions really difficult." Many ladies do not like Paley's evidences; we are of the number, and did not expect much, we therefore transfer to our classmates the pleasant words of the scholarly examiner, "The answers are full and well expressed, reflecting credit, etc., etc."

Our cup was almost full when Mr. W. H. Ballard, M.A., inspector of city schools, who had prepared the papers in Mathematics, told us at commencement that each year had given him new surprise at the excellence of the papers presented by the "Ladies' College." Several of them would have been honor papers in university work, being about 75 per cent. As this is not our hobby either, we cheerfully relinquish it to the deserving lady who will graduate next year.

We could refer to the reports of other departments, but space forbids. The girls that were thought to be but enjoying themselves had found their enjoyment in something very different from mere inactivity. The faculty says that this has been a very prosperous year. We girls know that it has been one of incessant labor. We congratulate our fellow-students on these examinations—on their difficulty, their impartiality and especially on the results. Were we to criticize anything, it might be the plainness of the programmes, as indeed of all announcements regarding the College. Perhaps it is well. It is said that the ladies' colleges are in marked contrast with universities on the matter of display. If so, our Alma Mater is aiming at the maximum of results with minimum of display. *Esto perpetua.*

The college will re-open on Wednesday, September 7th.