

sudden and total collapse of the late lamented Snow Shoe Club. Its history was a brief one. An enthusiastic general meeting—inauguration—a half session of precarious existence—two or three “tramps,” attended by two or three members—a second meeting, at which every one present was elected to some office—then a lingering illness and a natural death. It is to be feared that a similar fate awaits the proposed tobogganing club, should it be formed.

Yours truly,

STUDENT.

To the Editor of the Journal.

DEAR SIR,—I am glad to see that you have alluded to the shortness of our college session, and hope the editorial in your last issue is only the beginning of a vigorous agitation of the matter until the session is lengthened at least one month. If we had a longer time to digest the work we go over I believe we would get in a greater degree the *good* of a collegiate education. Mastication goes a great way physiologically, and the same rule applies intellectually.

I have heard that the present great length of the summer vacation is due to consideration for the theological students, and for those who had to earn their living during the summer. But the number of these is not by any means in the same proportion to the other students, as it was one time, and the mass should be considered rather than the few. Then again, as you point out, sporting interests would be much benefitted if the session included some warmer weather. I for one would like to see a college four or eight backed up to row. There are a number of amateur oarsmen in Kingston with whom they could try conclusions. I believe also that cricket would become very popular when we have so many players in college who are only prevented from playing together on account of the cold weather.

I am, sir, &c.,

STUDENT.

EXAMINATION CENTRES.

To the Editor of Queen's College Journal.

SIR,—Would it not be greatly in the interest of Queen's University to establish local examinations? I do not mean “local examinations” in the same sense as that term is used at Oxford and Cambridge. What I mean is that I would like to see the Senate appoint presiding examiners in certain towns and cities throughout the Dominion, that to these examiners the matriculation papers should be sent under seal of the University, that the examination at all the cities and towns should take place at the same time as the regular matriculation at Kingston, and that the answer papers of those writing at the local centres should all be sent to the Senate and read and valued by the regular University examiner. The scheme I have outlined is by no means a new and untried one. McGill University has had local examinations for half-a-dozen years past, and so has Toronto. The reasons for adopting such a system of examinations are, at least,

worthy of consideration. If it could be successfully carried out, and there is no reason why it should not, it would extend the usefulness and influence of the College; it would place a student, say in Nova Scotia, on the same footing as one in Kingston, by enabling him to compete for University honours and scholarships without the great expense of traveling all the way to Ontario; and it would increase the number of matriculants, and probably the number of students attending lectures. The details of the scheme would require little working out. Two or three places could be selected in each province, and at these presiding examiners could be appointed, to distribute the examination papers, to see that the candidates observed the University regulations, and to transmit the answer papers to the University authorities. The plan that I have outlined is one that has been followed by London University, England, for years past. The competition for the Gilchrist scholarship takes place in this very way. There are now so many graduates of Queen's that there would be no difficulty in securing presiding examiners in almost every village in the Dominion if need be. Altogether, the scheme is certainly worthy of consideration, and is one I would like to see discussed in the columns of the JOURNAL, at the meeting of the University Council next April, and by the Senate. And, by the way, before closing this, let me say I hope to see the October matriculation abolished at once and for ever. The High Schools all close their year's work in June, and in June all the Universities, and Queen's in particular, should hold their matriculation examinations. But of this anon. One thing I am convinced of, and it is this, that if Queen's would hold her matriculation examinations in June instead of October, and at the same time establish local examinations, she would in two years double the list of her matriculants, if not her students.

Yours, &c.,

MEMO.

For the Journal.

THE ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

THIS Society is in its usual lethargic condition. Debating is the main feature of the meetings, and a debate is held weekly, but that interest is not shown which should be, in this the main society of the College. The students of the Royal College seldom put in an appearance at the meetings, and this is in no small degree owing to the nature of the debates, which never are on medical subjects. If the A.M.S. aims at being a true University Society, subjects should occasionally be introduced which are of interest to medical students. There is no doubt the present system of carrying on debates should be remodelled. As it now is, a subject is chosen at each meeting for the following week, and all those who happen to be present are chosen on one side or the other, there being often as many as ten on each side. As a consequence of there being so many speakers, and such a short time to speak in, viz., ten minutes, the speeches show but little preparation. Any thought which is shown