

fulfilled. One of the retiring officers of last year's A.M.S. executive made a suggestion with regard to this matter, and we had hoped that the custom which he advocated would have taken permanent shape. An open meeting of the A.M.S., with such a programme as that society can easily furnish, would be a treat to all concerned, and one such meeting each half session is none too much to detract from their interest.

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The JOURNAL ventures the opinion that if the A. M. S. executive would promise *one* thoroughly good evening's programme each session, and procure for the occasion some foreign talent of recognized worth, that no student would begrudge a 50c. fee instead of the present fee of 25c. in order to meet the increased demands upon the treasury which the outlay would entail. In making this suggestion we make no disparaging insinuations against home talent, far from it, but we recognize the added interest which such an occasion presents when a noted singer or reader comes from afar. Miss Knox, of Toronto, made us such a visit some sessions ago, and many of the boys, no doubt, remember it with pleasure even yet. So we say, would it not be a desirable plan for the A.M.S. to undertake such a students' meeting *every* year, and so by bringing the best artists into our midst develop a taste for the beautiful which would not only do us good but be a treat to our friends as well. Doubtless the annual *conversazione* to a certain extent answers the demand, but we are sure that all who catch the spirit of our suggestion cannot fail to see the difference.

THE BRITISH SCHOLARSHIP.

The Scholarship of \$750 a year for two years, assigned to Queen's by the Commissioners of the first International Exhibition, is our blue ribbon, and we are glad to learn that the Senate has recommended Norman R. Carmichael, M.A., to the Commissioners as a fit and proper person to receive the honour. The holder is expected to study in a foreign university and to pursue his studies along some line of Physical or Chemical investigation. When Mr. Carmichael is definitely notified of his appointment, we understand that he is likely to go to Glasgow University to study under

Lord Kelvin, better known as Sir William Thompson, the Newton of Electrical Science. While warmly congratulating Mr. Carmichael, we cannot help asking, "Is there no Canadian who will establish a similar Scholarship in Philosophy?"

CORRESPONDENCE.

LETTER FROM REV. DR. J. FRAZER SMITH, OUR MISSIONARY IN CHINA.

THE Principal has received an interesting letter from Dr. Smith, from which we make a few extracts. Though almost all the men of his own day have gone from Queen's by this time, he still looks upon us as his fellow-students, and we must not forget that he is our representative to the millions in China. He is the right kind of a missionary, frank, truthful and sincere. The letter is dated

Hsin Chen, Honan, Dec. 30, 1892.

Our history thus far is much the same as that of all pioneer work in the interior, with this important exception, that we had no person of experience to plan for us and lead the way. In other missions they do not allow men to do new work until they have been five years in the country. I think when we take these facts into consideration that we have great cause for thankfulness to God for the way in which He has led us, and that He has prevented our mistakes from proving disastrous.

Two new stations have been opened, and something has been done both in a medical line, in the way of distributing literature and in preaching on the streets of towns and villages, as well as at fairs, where many thousands of people congregate.

Regarding the general distribution of literature, I have very little faith in it. Of course the Bible Societies have done good in distributing scriptures, but as the years go by this kind of work loses many of the attractions which it had as I listened to some eloquent appeal when the annual meeting of the society came round. The amount of money and work that has been squandered in this way is enormous. Suppose, for instance, that the people of Ontario were without the Bible and that taking the men in the cities and large