

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

All reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to secure insertion.

THE CONVERSAZIONE.

The annual Conversazione of the Literary and Scientific Society was held in the University buildings, on Friday evening, the 10th instant. It was similar in almost all particulars to the scores of conversazioni which have preceded it, and therefore a description of it cannot but be somewhat of a repetition of former descriptions. What differentiates the conversazione of 1888 from its predecessors is, particularly, the Concert. We therefore give the programme which was successfully carried out the other evening:—

First Part.

Chorus—"Soldiers' Chorus" (Faust), Gounod—University College Glee Club.
Violin Solo—"Fantaisie, Op. 100," Ch. de Beriot—Miss F. V. Keys.
Overture—Two Pianos, "La Gazza Ladra," Rossini—Misses Whitney and Sullivan, Miss Broughall and Mr. G. H. Fairclough, pupils of Mr. Carl Martens.
Part Song—(a) "Two Roses," Werner; Chorus—(b) "Choral March," Becker—University College Glee Club.
Polka Cantabile—"Fior di Margherita," Arditi—Mrs. Agnes Thompson.
Reading—"Time's Silent Lesson," Scherman—Miss J. Alexander.
Chanson—"Malbrouck," Traditional French—University College Glee Club. Solo by W. H. Blake, B.A.
Aria—"Le Parlate d'Amor" (Faust), Gounod—Miss Maud Burdette.
Chorus—"The Young Recruit," Kucken—University College Glee Club.

Second Part.

Overture—"Morning, Noon and Night," Suppe—Orchestra.
Octette—(a) "The Undergraduate's Lament—Pres. Wilson; (b) "Alma Mater"—Students.
Song—"The Winds that Waft My Sighs to Thee," Wallace—Miss Maud Burdette.
Duet—"Could a Man be Secure," Goodwin—Mr. M. S. Mercer, B.A., and Mr. J. F. Brown, B.A.
Waltz Song—"Blithesome and Gay" (Faust), Gounod—Mrs. Agnes Thomson.
Song—"The Friar of Orders Grey," Russell—Mr. E. W. Schuch.
Overture—(a) "L'Italiana in Algeri," Rossini; March—(b) "Coronation March," Meyerbeer—Misses Whitney and Sullivan, Miss Broughall and Mr. G. H. Fairclough.
Reading—Scene from "The Honeymoon," Tobin—Miss Jessie Alexander.
Clarinet Solo—"Grand Fantasia, Op. 104," Gruenwald—Mr. George McGuire.
Finale—"Swinging Waltz," Silva—Orchestra.

The Concert was popular in character, excellently carried out by the performers, and much enjoyed by the audience. The Glee Club sang their numbers *con brio*, and with an attention to light and shade and the sentiment of each piece not often displayed by a college choir. The club and the conductor are to be congratulated on their success. The orchestra was hardly up to the requirements of accompaniment, and was more or less of the "scratch" order. Mrs. Agnes Thomson was the vocal star of the evening, and has seldom, barring the wretched acoustics of the Hall, been heard to better advantage. She sang, as she always does, simply and sweetly, without affectation or striving after effect, and is by long odds the most popular and pleasing singer within miles of Toronto. Miss Maud Burdette, who shared the honours of the evening with Mrs. Thomson, possesses a rich, cultivated contralto voice, which she uses with discrimination and good effect. She made a most favourable impression on her audience, and was recalled twice. The singing of what, in our opinion, was her most successful number, Wallace's charming song, "The Winds that Waft my Sighs to Thee," was somewhat marred by the faulty accompaniment. Altogether, Miss Burdette is to be heartily congratulated upon her *debut* here.

And by the way, Musical Committees should bear in mind that, order of excellence, and instrumental performers, of the first rank. They are apt to be dreary performances otherwise. It looks almost too much like a school-closing exercise to see piano-forte pupils playing over their pieces, with their teacher, as it were, beating time for them. Miss Jessie Alexander recited with her usual success, and well received. But the VARSITY has little fault to find with the Concert as a whole, and is not disposed to be hypercritical. We were very glad to see the Glee Club given a prominent place on the programme.

It would be manifestly impossible to criticize the concert in detail, and all that can be said of the whole performance is that it was of a uniformly pleasing character.

CONVERSAT. NOTES.

There was not such a crush this year as there was last year.

The number present is estimated at about 1,000.

The military were conspicuous—by their absence.

So were the Professors; Dr. Wilson and Mr. Baker being the only ones visible.

Dr. J. G. Bourinot, Clerk of the House of Commons, Ottawa, was present.

Miss Maud Burdette, the contralto, is the daughter of G. B. Burdette, LL.D., M.P., of Belleville.

Miss F. V. Keys, the violiniste, is a sister of D. R. Keys, B.A., the Lecturer in English.

The Residence dance was a great success. It began at ten and lasted till long after midnight.

Many are the heart-burnings over the failure to receive invitations to the dance.

A prominent newspaper reporter was "fired" from the dance-hall because he had no ticket and because he was cheeky.

The Natural Science men were to the fore with a good display.

So were the Engineers. They always have an interesting corner.

The Library was less ornate than usual. We all miss the genial "Teddy."

The Mathematical men, as usual, allowed Bengough to work off the annual "joke" (?) on THE VARSITY. This year it was more pointless than usual; doubtless Grip had a score of his own to settle this time.

The Physical men were busy all night showing off their knowledge of acoustics, heat and light. They are always sure of a large and interested audience. But why do they make such ear-piercing, soul-destroying noises?

The supper-rooms were well supplied and well patronized.

The dressing-room arrangements were all that could be desired this year. Great praise is due to this committee.

The programme was exceedingly tasteful in design. No vote of censure is in store for the convener of the Committee on Printing this year, surely!

What will the deficit be this year, Mr. Treasurer?

THE VARSITY man, as in duty bound, paid his respects to "K" Co. Armoury. He would like very much to know who is responsible for the cheap and tawdry style of decoration that now spoils this usually neat and trim little room. Sham paste-board shields, and plaster-of-Paris swords and rifles are altogether out of keeping with the character of the Armoury; to say nothing of the way in which the painter has daubed an unusually garish, red-colored paint upon all the wood-work, obscuring the natural beauties of the same, and making the room look unpleasantly new, and smell uncommonly strong!

The Editors of THE VARSITY have received the following contributions, unaccompanied by the authors' names:—"The Peep of Day," signed by "Semaj Irneh;" and "Twilight," signed by "Ogai;" also an untitled contribution, received before Christmas, signed "P." Will the authors of these pieces kindly call at this office and prove property, otherwise they will be sold for taxes.

An important meeting of graduates of the University will be held in Moss Hall next Wednesday evening, at 8 o'clock. The meeting is called by the President of the Literary Society at the request of the General Committee, and is for the purpose of discussing the erection of a society and gymnasium building. Considering the ventilation which this subject has already received, and the importance of the scheme to University men, the graduates should meet in large numbers on Wednesday evening, and place the scheme on a practical footing. Vice-Chancellor Mulock will preside.

GLEE CLUB—Although Conversazione is over, the Club has still considerable work on hand. Notwithstanding the number of invitations refused, others have come in, several of which have been accepted. The Club sends out a number of its members to the Presbyterian Church, near Norval, next Monday evening. The Toronto Lacrosse Club have engaged the Club for their Assault at Arms, in the Pavilion, on which occasion Mr. Schuch will conduct them. On March 1st, their annual evening social with Carlton St. Methodist Church takes place, and, from the reception given the members last year, a most enjoyable time is looked forward to. There will be a general practice on Friday, Feb. 4th, at 4 p.m.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB—On Monday evening, February 6th, a French meeting of the Modern Language Club was held. Although the proceedings were conducted wholly in French, quite an interest was taken in the discussions on society business. Mr. E. C. Jeffrey gave notice, in fine French style, of a motion to raise fees from 25c. to 50c. After a short discussion the following programme was rendered:—An essay on "Le Chien d'Or," by Miss