

NEWS ITEMS.

PROFESSOR GOLDWIN SMITH was a 'bystander' at the football match this afternoon.

MANY inquiries were made after the young man who was responsible for the programmes which should have been distributed at the meeting last night.

It is said that Mr. J. M. Gibson, M. P. P., an old member, will be asked to address the Society during the approaching session of the Ontario Assembly.

A School of Science man asked a medical at the football match what it was the medicals were drinking out of a bottle that one of their partizans carried, and was told that it was Don water.

The latest rumour, that the College Council intend asking the Government to give them the material in the old stone asylum in the park, and a sum of money to re-erect it as a student hall in the rear of the College.

The freshmen are backward in 'getting up' in the Society. They should be heard oftener, and on every debate there should at least be one junior on either side. It is only by beginning early that ease is acquired in addressing such meetings.

The subject for debate at the meeting of the Society Friday night is: Does poetry decline as civilization advances? The discussion is to be an open one—anyone has the privilege of speaking to the question. The open debates of last winter were among the best of the session.

THE LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

The public meeting on Friday night was a great success. The inaugural address of Mr. Vanier Stinson, the President, was a good one, and the debate much above the average. The old lecture-room of Professor Croft was crowded, a good part of the audience being composed of ladies. Mr. Alfred Blier, M. A., occupied the chair, Professor Croft not being able to attend.

THE INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

The president began by quoting the following speech which he had once heard delivered by a gentleman of benevolent countenance and gold-rimmed spectacles, like Pickwick turned Scotchman: "It is well known, Mr. Chairman, to be a genuine principle of human actions, that no man ever allows a penny to go out of his pockets, unless he expects some adequate return." (Laughter) "Acting on this 'genuine principle' he proposed to show what returns the members of this society might expect.

The advantages which the society offered to its members, might be classed under the following heads: those resulting from practice in the discussion of business according to established rules of order, from practice in the writing of correct and elegant English, from public reading and public speaking, and lastly those resulting from social intercourse and the creation of *esprit de corps*. We formed a part of the great English-speaking nation, and as public meetings of all kinds were a characteristic feature in every English speaking community, any one of us was liable to be called on to take some part in public meetings for deliberative purposes; and one of the aims of this society was to supply such training to its members, that their part need not be a creditable or even subordinate one. The art of correct and elegant composition, in which it might emphatically be said there was no royal road to perfection, had advantages in itself so manifest that no words were needed to set them forth; its applicability to other purposes would be referred to below. It was not, perhaps, greatly to be regretted that so little had been accomplished by our six, a professionally Literary Society. It was not surprising that the society did not abound in graceful and pleasing elocutionists, because elocution was an art in itself not to be

acquired by theoretical disquisitions, but requiring the constant teaching and supervision of an expert—a course of training for which members had not time to spare,—with a curriculum that demanded such close study as ours (applause). The plan hitherto pursued of engaging a professional elocutionist had not proved very successful, and the president suggested that it might do as well in securing the services of such a professional man to attend all ordinary meetings and act as critic on the rhetorical and elocutionary portions of the debates and readings. Public speaking, however, had always been regarded as the chief object of this society, and it was here accordingly we had attained our greatest success. To show that this success had not, in many cases at least, been only temporary, the society was able to point to the names of a large number of members of this society who occupied at present prominent positions in the pulpits, in the legislatures, on the bench and at the bar. (Applause) It was not necessary to plead at any great length in justification of what would be readily admitted to be not only a highly agreeable but an exceedingly useful accomplishment. Many elaborate treatises were to be found devoted to the subject, and containing general rules for the guidance of young speakers in the preparation of their speeches; and the essayist would only offer a few remarks respecting rather the outward form than the inner contents of speeches, respecting rhetoric rather than logic. The matter of a speech was of course of superior importance, but, at the same time, when you had anything to say you should know how to say it. You must know how to communicate it to others, not only forcibly, to command respect, but agreeably, to command attention. Without this you could not hope to attain Cicero's ideal of the *'optimus orator'* as one *'qui animos audientium et docet, et delectat et permoveet.'* (Loud applause by the freshmen.) "The faults of young speakers were either faults of diction, or of enunciation and delicacy. Of diction, the principal faults were inelegance, obscurity and affectation. None of these faults were unknown to our society. Were they entirely unknown. How often did we hear some enthusiastic debater asserting that he had with pleasure drank in the eloquence of his friend; that it did not lay with the gentlemen opposite to deny these facts, and other expressions of a similar character? Another well-merited remark: "These sort of things, Mr. Chairman, is always to be avoided. (Laughter). Other faults were sometimes heard which should never proceed from the mouth of any educated gentleman, e.g., words like 'tremendous,' or monstrous word formations. The remedy for these vices is the usual one of practice, and keeping guard over one's colloquial speech, and an endeavor to speak with purity and correctness in one's daily intercourse. Not uncommonly the fault of obscurity was due to the fact that the speaker, not having acquired the power of watching over his words, used words which actually conveyed a plain meaning different from that intended to convey; or it might arise from defect, when words were left out that were essential to the meaning of the clause; or from bad arrangement, when the speaker forgot the construction with which he began his sentence as 'It is my duty this evening when we are all so pleasantly met together, I rise to move.' etc. (laughter); or again when words connected in sense are disconnected in construction, as in the well-known advertisement: "Wanted a young man to take charge of a span of horses of a religious turn of mind" (loud laughter). The cure for this vice of obscurity was easy to point out, but not so easy to apply. Perspicuity, like elegance, is only attained by constant practice, until it has become a habit, a second nature. You must not, however, inflict on your friends and relatives long set speeches; or you would be shamed by all mankind. Rather assiduously practice original composition and the careful reading of authors that are prescribed in the curriculum. The habit should be cultivated of using

pure and choice English in the translation of such ancient and foreign classics as are prescribed in the curriculum. The last vice of diction referred to was that of affectation—affectation of wit, of learning, of superior excellence, and finally of pathos and enthusiasm. He would urge on young speakers to be wary of the too common desire of making their hearers laugh. Laughter was easy to excite, but it was not always given to the funny man to discern whether the features of the audience were affected to risibility by the speaker's wit or at his foolishness. No weapon was more powerful than sarcasm, but it clumsily wielded it was like a boomerang which very often refused its office and recoiled on the user. Then there was the affectation of superior knowledge shown principally in the extensive use of technical terms, and displayed most frequently in this society by honor men in metaphysics (loud laughter)—who flung about with profusion such words as apperception, conditionation and the rest of that sort of jargon, and who seemed to take delight in the gaping ignorance of their audience (loud laughter). For all forms of affectation the only remedy was common sense. The forms of affectation above mentioned were merely against good taste, but there were other forms such as affectation of pathos or an enthusiasm not felt, which were offences against honesty. False pathos and false enthusiasm were usually their own Nemesis; like falsehood in all its forms, they generally end in bathos and excite ridicule. The speaker then alluded briefly to the vices of enunciation or delivery, which included in its widest sense pronunciation, accentuation, modulation of the voice and gesture, and gave striking examples of how good taste was apt to be offended in all these particulars. Having referred to the practical advantages derived from the society, the speaker touched upon some of the benefits arising from social intercourse. They were two-fold and derived partly from the training given by the society in habits of tolerance toward those incongenial to us, and partly from the opportunities here offered of cementing friendships with such of our fellows as were congenial to us. Rivalry of course must exist, but it would be their endeavor to admit of nothing but a noble rivalry in promoting the common welfare. The society was an excellent school for getting rid of self-conceit, with which the fresh matriculant was bountifully endowed, and which, though sensibly diminished by the end of the first academic year would be apt to break out again in new forms, were it not for the wholesome check applied by the public criticism of fellow members. A much greater and undoubtedly a much pleasanter advantage conferred by the Society was the abundant opportunities it afforded students of becoming mutually acquainted with one another, and learning to value at their true worth those qualities in others which attracted affection, as well as those which commanded respect. In the course of his remarks the President paid a deserved tribute to the two professors who were soon to lay aside their harness after so long and so successful a career in the sphere in which they had labored (loud applause). The President was good enough to refer to ourselves and give us the encouragement that THE WHITE AND BLUE would, if one might judge from the numbers that have already appeared, prove a valuable vehicle of academic news, as well as an organ of undergraduate opinion.

The president closed his address by strongly vindicating the loyalty of the alumni of the University to their *Alma Mater*, and of Canadians to their own country; and to the British Empire, in which latter respect the inscription on the monument in the park, and the memorial window in Convocation Hall, were the proofs. (Loud applause.)

THE DEBATE.

After a reading by Mr. Geo. Acheson the question "Was the existence of parties a benefit to the state?" was gone on with. The affirmative was maintained by Mr. Johnston and Mr. Herridge, and the negative by Mr. Mc-Gregor and Mr. Shortt. All the speeches were good ones, that of Mr. Herridge being especially a brilliant effort.