

## The Portfolio.

Published monthly by the Students of the Wesleyan  
Female College, Hamilton, Ontario.

EDITOR-IN-CHIEF, . . . . . L. G. BRYSON.  
BUSINESS EDITOR, . . . . . M. J. HUCK.  
ASSOCIATE EDITORS, . . . . . { C. M. WILSON.  
T. D. CLERK.  
B. SMITH.

### TERMS OF SUBSCRIPTION:

Per Year, One Dollar. Single Copies, 15 Cents.

FOR SALE AT EASTWOOD'S.

Address all communications and exchanges to  
THE PORTFOLIO, HAMILTON, ONT.

We invite contributions and correspondence from the Alumni and  
former students.

SOCIETIES, like all other institutions, have at least one vulnerable point through which the arrows of criticism can pierce, and we do not claim that our college societies are exempt from faults. This is clearly shown in our debates. First speaker rises—several moments pass—all eyes are rather anxiously turned upon that young lady's face, and we listen attentively for the moment to arrive when the flow of eloquence shall overcome the first timidity. Hark! she speaks! The first sentence begins with, "I think so and so;" second, third, fourth, the same. Has that young lady entirely forgotten that it is necessary to make any points or give reasons for her assertions? Yes, it is too true, comparatively little energy is brought into play in our debates. It would be supposed that a prize was offered for the shortest possible speech, and that not always short and sweet either. Then about twice the time taken for the debate is occupied with discussing the numerous points made by those clever young ladies. Is this as it should be? Would we not feel flattered if, some afternoon, an M. P. should take a stroll into our midst to be entertained by a debate similar to the above? Let us rouse up to action and put this thing down. A good cause always deserves warm supporters. We often hear the contemptuous remarks of *little* peo-

ple, about debates being for boys, girls might better employ their time doing fancy work, etc. Without entering into the question of "woman's rights" at all, we are certain that if the dormant energy and ability in our societies were utilized no possible fault could be found with the logic and delivery of our young ladies. In our last debate Miss Fish valiantly upheld her side, plainly proving she had read authorities on the question, clearly collected her own opinions and knew how to deliver both to the best advantage. We know what can be accomplished, and should we not follow the good example Miss Fish has given us? It is not necessary to dwell on the good effects of debates, as all who have tried know full well that the practice of arranging thoughts and bringing remarks to a climax cultivates the conversational and argumentative powers. We hope soon to perceive a marked improvement in this respect in both our societies.

AMONG the many advantages of a college course is that of having the use of a good library. It is impossible that any student should be so well informed as not to need to refer to works on the different subjects taken up in her course. Students of literature especially stand in need of such a place of reference. They ought to read the works of the authors with whose lives they are becoming familiar, and instead of absorbing, undigested, a text book's opinions concerning them, should get the works, study them for themselves and form their own opinions. They may plead inability to criticise accurately, but that is no excuse; it is not so much the criticism but the effort to criticise that will prove an incalculable benefit, while each attempt lessens the chances of inaccuracy. It is our opinion that neither the library nor the reading-room are patronized as extensively as they ought to be. True, our Senior Society library is not as complete