

## DEATH PREMATURE AND DEATH IN LIFE.

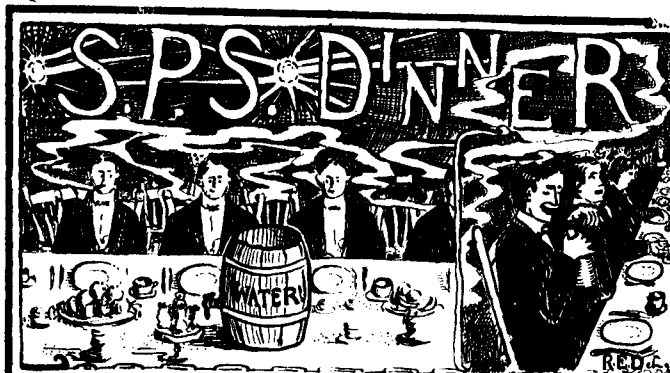
I LEARNT from the Registrar the other day of the death of a student who had won a scholarship in University College, and had been pronounced by his schoolmasters the most promising boy who had ever attended that school, and one of the most loveable and high-minded. He had been delayed in entering the College by illness: the next news we had was of his death.

"How premature"; was the exclamation which first rose to my lips; "if only he had finished his course."

As certain of your own poets have said:

"Three score and ten a wise man  
Said, were our years to be,  
Three score and six I give him back,  
Four are enough for me.  
Four in these corridors;  
Four in these halls of ours,  
These give me Heavenly powers,  
'Tis life for me."

Was the comment flippant or unworthy? Surely not. To have taken a course in Arts in a liberal University; to have mixed with other young men in the flush of youth and hope; in the first pursuit of truth and of ideals, when the world is not yet too much with us nor we yet wholly of the world, when every one is least conventional, most frank, most generous and most imaginative, when every man counts for one and none for more than one, in spite of the false inequalities of the world; or rather when every man counts for one, in spite of all differences of birth or wealth or worldly influence, until his character has been weighed, and then the man who merits it may count for a score, in spite of the false equalities of politics. To have handselled a fresh and virgin mind upon the oldest and greatest of all thoughts, the thoughts of the wonder and the glory and the meaning of life, the beauty of nature, the ever-increasing charm of the seasons as they pass; to have kept mind and body virgin in this atmosphere of the high thoughts and hopes and faiths of youth, to have finished this course, to have fought this good fight and kept this faith, a harder fight to fight and a harder faith to keep in the later years of mature life than the fight and faith of Christianity itself, a fight and a faith which some even who fight and keep that seem hardly willing to fight or able to keep, this fight and faith which has for its objects truth and truthfulness, honesty and sincerity, in spite of all the dodging and deceit and diplomacy of commercial, political and social life. To have done this successfully under the inspiration of youth, and then to die before the strain became too great and disillusionment too general; this is to have realized the passionate Greek proverb, "Whom the gods love die young." This is to recall the fate of the young men Cleobis and Biton, whom the Greek philosopher pronounced the happiest with one exception among mortals: because they died in the flush of hope and happiness, in the nobler flush of manly tenderness and filial love, before they could sink into weakness and old age, before they could lapse into coldness and indifference, before they could forget their heaven or their home; "while the evil days came not nor the years drew nigh when they should say we have no pleasure in them; while the sun, or the light, or the moon, or the stars were not darkened, nor the clouds returned after the rain." "Felix" we may say for this youthful member of '06, who was never quite a member, and is now beyond the reach of time and belongs to eternity, "Felix opportune mortis"; and yet "felicior" we may think if only he had stayed with us four happy years, and tasted of the best that life can offer.



THE fourteenth annual dinner of the School of Practical Science was the occasion of an enthusiastic and good-natured crowd at McConkey's on Friday night last. The affair was in every way a success, and despite predictions to the contrary, dry dinners have come to stay. Mr. D. Sinclair, president of the Engineering Society, and chairman of the Dinner Committee, presided and performed his duties in a most creditable manner. To his right and left stretched a long line of honored and distinguished guests and members of the Faculty. The menu card designed by Mr. J. B. Challies, '03, was a most creditable bit of work, and the menu itself might be referred to in the same terms.

On the disappearance of the last edible morsel, the chairman arose and in a few well-chosen words proposed the toast to "The King," which was received most heartily. Mr. W. G. Chace, '01, in proposing "The Empire," referred to its triumphs of peace, its resources and its brilliant future. Vice Chancellor Moss, in a reply breathing a high spirit of patriotism, drew an inspiring picture of the power and vitality of the subject of the toast. Mr. Peter Gillespie, '03, in a speech outlining its relations to the School, proposed "The Legislature," which was responded to by Mr. T. W. Gibson, Director of the Bureau of Mines. Mr. Gibson asked his hearers to be lenient towards legislatures, as much was due to them in the progress of any country. In proposing the "University of Toronto," Mr. B. Patten, '03, made a plea for a change of name to the "University of Ontario." President Loudon in reply, congratulated the School on its prosperity and rejoiced that School men were everywhere finding lucrative positions. "The Profession" was ably proposed by Mr. D. H. Pinkney, '03, and Messrs. W. T. Jennings, C. E., and W. R. Gregg spoke in reply. Mr. Jennings compared the advantages of to-day with those of thirty years ago and urged his hearers to make the best possible use of these advantages. Mr. Gregg, representing the Ontario Association of Architects, spoke of the deep interest which that body had in the School. "The Faculty," proposed by Mr. J. F. Hamilton, '03, in a felicitous speech were nobly defended by Drs. Galbraith and Ellis. Dr. Galbraith referred to the presence of Mr. T. Kennard Thompson, C. E., of New York, one of the most distinguished Graduates of the School, and proposed his health, which was responded to in fitting style by that gentleman. Dr. Ellis in response to a query on the menu card told "how the dickens he got there." Mr. C. R. Young, '03, proposed "The Press," Mr. E. A. James, '04, replying in a neat, impromptu speech. "Sister Institutions" was ably proposed by Mr. A. E. Gibson, and representatives from McGill, Queen's, Faculty of Arts, Faculty of Medicine and Victoria College briefly replied. Mr. A. E. Davison, '03, proposed "Athletics," and Messrs. "Bob" Bryce, and F. N. Rutherford, '04, spoke in reply. "The Ladies," proposed by Mr. W. J. Blair, '02, had an able champion in Mr. S. L. Trees, '03. Mr. P. M. Yates, '04, proposed "Graduates and the Graduating Class," to which replies were given by Messrs. W.