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Editorial Comments.



THE election by acclamation of all the officers of the Literary and Scientific Society is an event almost without precedent in the history of the Society; nor is it less unexpected than unprecedented. The Society is thus confronted with a condition of things with which it has never before had to deal and one in which there may be considerable danger to its welfare. It is to the annual elections that the members have looked for the payment of the fees into the treasury. So implicit has been the faith in this means of collection that every member, active or inactive, has always postponed paying his fee until that time; any one who paid before then was generally considered to have done so for effect or with some ulterior object in view. This year there will be no election and none of the attendant excitement that has given to the working members an opportunity, and to the less active a desire, to contribute their dues to the Treasury. Further, a large number of the members have been disenfranchised; the principle of taxation with representation will of course prevail, and the virtually ousted members will pay no fees and there will be no reason for interested politicians to do it for them. It is therefore feared that, when the outstanding debts are paid off, there will be no surplus wherewith to begin the new year, and that thereby the work of the Society may be hampered and its usefulness lessened, neither of which is desirable nor expedient. What is to be done? The answer is easy; the duty of every man is plain. Every member should pay his fee, elections or no elections, and should do so at once. The money is needed and the members must supply it. A considerable number paid last Friday night; if all who were present then and who were so enthusiastic in cheering their friends will now show their loyalty in a tangible manner there will be no deficit this year and a good round sum will be placed to the credit of the Society. This latter will of course be smaller than in previous years, and circumstances may necessitate the payment of fees early next fall. If this should happen, the absence of an election will not be an unmixed evil. In fact the Society may perhaps have needed just such an event to bring it to its senses, and if the members but profit by the experience of the year and the lessons that may be learned by what has taken place lately there are good grounds for hoping that better things are in store.

The gentlemen whose good fortune it was to be elected by acclamation to offices in the Literary Society are to be congratulated on having been thus honored by the undergraduates. To be a member of the General Committee of the Society is indeed an honor, and, moreover, one that can be obtained only once during one's undergraduate career, and is thus the more highly to be prized. The committee elected to serve next year is a fair one; some of its members are better than others; in the words of the song: "there are some that are good and some that are not." But on the whole it can be said that the new committee is composed of energetic and fairly representative men. Of the newly-elected President, Mr. H. E. Irwin, B.A., we know nothing personally, but if the words of his friends are an indication of his ability and fitness for the position we have no doubt but that in him the Society will have an excellent President. To the retiring President,

who has been untiring in his attention to the duties of his office, and who has shown himself so well worthy of the confidence reposed in him, and to the other members of the outgoing committee who have worked so well in the interest of the Society, THE VARSITY offers the thanks of the entire student body. May the new one deserve the same at the end of its term as does the old!

UNIVERSITY PUBLICATIONS.

A university may acquire a name for itself by its maintenance of a high standard of examinations, the merits of the graduates who year by year leave its halls, the name of the various members of the faculties as successful teachers, and last, though by no means least, the contributions to science and literature of its undergraduates, its graduates and its staff. Taking the University of Toronto as the example most worthy of our attention, no one will for a moment deny but that she holds a foremost place among her kind in America; she requires a high standard throughout the entire course in every department; her graduates take the highest places in their pursuit of post graduate work at other universities. She has among her faculty those whose names are quoted as authorities in science and in literature, nor are they lacking in original research—the great lack is an official publication by the university, in which the results of the work of the members of the university might be made public. In it the decisions of the Senate and other official announcements could be made. In fact there are so many things of an official nature alone that the matter necessary for a publication of some size, be it Bulletin, Gazette or Review—the name is immaterial—is already assured.

Then so far as material of a more permanent nature, there are so many societies in connection with the university that these should be able to contribute something of value to the columns of the proposed publication. There are seminaries connected with the different departments of study and the various laboratories; it is but natural to expect that from the papers of the one and the researches of the other that one article at least might be of permanent value. Papers have been read before the Modern Language Club, and afterwards published in the columns of THE VARSITY, which are not unworthy of publication. Then there are the Engineering Society, the Natural Science Association, the Mathematical Society, the Medical Society, and the Pathological Society. Papers have been read before every one of these which many would like to have in some permanent form, while at present all they have, if they were fortunate enough to hear them, is a remembrance of what was read. Take, for example, the paper read but lately by Professor Baker before the Mathematical Society. It has been most justly praised; those who heard it would like to have it in print, and many who did not would gladly obtain it were it possible. What becomes of the essays of the successful competitors for the Frederick Wyld Prize and the Ramsay Scholarship, or the thesis of the candidates for the degree of M.A.? No one sees these but the writers and the examiners, and every one of these, unless the examination is a sham, ought to be worthy of publication. Where can one find a record of the papers read before the Pathological Society which many a medical graduate of Toronto would be glad to possess? It has been stated in this connection that a member of the faculty has made a discovery which will add lustre to his name—one who to-day is recognized