

Queen's, in her extra-mural courses, has virtually adopted such a system. This course provides a means of self-improvement, by private study at least, and several every year take advantage of the opportunity thus given. Provision is also made for the delivery of lectures in local centres during the summer months.

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There is one subject which we would like to bring to the notice of every one interested in *Queen's*, viz., the fact, for it is a fact, that year by year students are devoting themselves more and more to the grinding up of lessons, and less and less to the cultivation of what, for lack of a better name, we may call student social life.

The great majority of students now say that they have so much to do that they cannot spare time to attend the meetings of societies, or to enjoy social intercourse with each other.

Let us take for illustration the Alma Mater Society. We take this society, not because it is an extreme case, but because it is a prominent society, and therefore may be supposed to suffer less, from what we have referred to, than most of the other societies.

This society should include all students in connection with the University; but, as a matter of fact, only about 6 per cent. of the students attend its meetings with any degree of regularity, and ordinary meetings do not number 8 per cent. of the students. Further, many of those who do attend, say that they cannot afford time to prepare for taking part in the work of the society. Now this cannot be for the good of the students themselves. If it is bad for man to be compelled to spend so many hours each day in physical toil, that he has neither time nor energy left for any kind of intellectual culture or recreation, it cannot be good for the student—the intellectual toiler—to spend so many hours each day in intellectual labor, that he has neither time nor energy left for the polishing and refining influences of social life among his fellows.

We think there is a real danger here. Under ordinary circumstances no man can get the full benefit of a university course, if he is simply a book-worm, and spends practically the whole of his time in preparation for his classes. We believe it is generally admitted that educated people in Canada have not the influence they should have, simply because they are not sufficiently in touch with the life of the people. Now, if the student does not come into living contact with his fellows in the university, it is not too much to say that, in nine cases out of ten, he will not come into living contact with men generally, after he leaves the university.

We shall not attempt, at this time, to say where the blame lies for the state of things above referred to. We may return to the subject at a future time. For the present we invite an expression of opinion from anyone interested.

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Had we been called upon during the early weeks of the session to express an opinion as to the probable success of the Alma Mater meetings for '90-'91, we fear that our forecast would have been unfavorable. Rather slimly attended meetings, attested the fact that those to whom

the society should be of greatest interest were either neglectful or ignorant of the advantages to be had by an attendance at the A.M.S. discussions. Of late, however, a growing interest is beginning to manifest itself among the students, and our society bids fair to be this session a grand success. We say *our* society, for just here lies the difficulty which has prevented a greater interest being taken in the Saturday evening meetings. We heartily wish that every student, whether in Theology, Medicine or Arts, could be brought to understand that the Alma Mater is a society in whose concerns he has just as much interest as any other man of Queen's or the Royal. It is not a seniors' society, nor yet the exclusive property of the freshmen; it belongs not to the Arts alone, nor is it distinctively Medical. Every man, woman or child who is a student of Queen's or the Royal has an interest in the A.M.S.—an interest which he should not lightly throw aside. All are welcome, and the discussions upon the papers read before the society, as well as the papers themselves, cannot but prove beneficial to all who attend. All are encouraged to speak, and the few trembling words of the beginner are received with that hearty sympathy and goodfellowship that he may not meet in more critical audiences. Come then! Everyone turn out and bring your chum with you. Meds! Arts! Theology! All come, and try to make the Alma Mater of '90-'91 what it should be—an unbounded success.

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The attention of the public has been directed time and again to the inferiority of the matriculation standards of our Canadian universities. At the conference of university and high school representatives held in Toronto last spring, and called at the instance of the Minister of Education, it was resolved that the adoption of a uniform standard much higher than the present standard was absolutely necessary for the advancement of higher education, and the greater efficiency of the high schools. It was also agreed that, as an initial step, the minimum required of candidates for matriculation be forty per cent. Toronto University, however, though represented in the conference, refused to adopt and act upon the resolutions then passed. This refusal on the part of Toronto throws on her the onus of the low standard of matriculation. The *Mail*, in a recent issue, insists that the demand of Principal Grant and others for an official share in the matriculation examination is incompatible with our educational system, and that "any arrangement by which the denominational universities are either specifically or by collusion admitted to representation in the public educational system must be viewed in the light of a betrayal of public trust." This is, at least, exactly in line with the course adopted by Toronto University, and is also an attempted justification of its position in refusing to act in concert with the other universities. The *Mail's* assertions simply amounts to this that no university outside the pale of Toronto must have anything to do with our educational system. If this be the case, does not Toronto University assume an arrogant and unjustifiable position? Though supported by the Government of Ontario, she cannot therefore claim to have the sole right of controlling the educational