

fifteen cents each, more papers would be sold, and the arrangement would prove more satisfactory to the students. In Science and Medicine, a further subdivision into pamphlets containing the papers for one year might be worth considering. In Arts and Theology, this, of course, would not be practicable.

SOCIAL FUNCTIONS.

ARISTOTLE says somewhere that man is a social animal. It is more than probable that the good sage penned this trite saying one Saturday morning after returning from an At Home at the Academy. There had been many student dances that season, as there had been before, and have been since, and their frequency and character had set the wise old man a-pondering. Why all these elaborate and costly preparations for getting acquainted and for keeping acquainted? Aristotle meditated long and deeply. In a few months the "Politics" appeared dealing with some of the less important aspects of the question. The real problem, however, was unsolved and so has descended to us.

At Queen's what to do with the excessive number of social functions has long been a moot question. Almost everybody has asked it; everybody has proposed solutions; and all, professors as well as students, have gone on enjoying the functions and doing little or nothing to lessen their number. Beginning with the Freshman's reception in November, and ending with the Science dance a couple of weeks ago, we have had nine At Homes and dinners in connection with the college this year. These have cost on an

average about \$200 each, or roughly, \$1,800 in all. A tidy sum, but perhaps not too large if the students and their friends really got its value in recreation. Whether they do at present may be questioned.

But it is not so much the money, as the time and vital energy spent, that is the great objection to our series of functions. From the middle of November until Christmas it is next to impossible to get any real work done; and after all, this is the students' first object in coming here. There is no thought but to attend At Homes and such like things. The very atmosphere takes on a tang of the reckless, all-pervading abandon, and infects the student whether he will or no. Our surroundings are supposed to have some effect at least upon our work and actions, and the environment at Queen's during the latter part of the fall term, has certainly not in the last few years been conducive to study. Not that we would have our students study all the time and make book-worms and pedants of themselves. That would be almost as bad as making butterflies of themselves. But the general character of a university should be such as would at all times permit a man to study if he wanted to.

However, it appears that the thing has about worked itself to death, and at last some action has been taken, not by the authorities, but by the students themselves—another proof by the way of the senate's wisdom in allowing the students to manage their own affairs. The number of the functions has not been limited; no one student-body had any power to do that. But by the special request of the Alma Mater, all year At Homes will have to be cur-