

DEATH OF MR. RUSKIN.

The announcement of the death (Jan. 20) of John Ruskin, the "High-Priest of the Beautiful," brought with it no acute sense of personal loss, owing to the fact that the work of the great art critic and brilliant writer of English prose had many years ago ended, and that not many, comparatively speaking, of the present generation had felt the magic of his incomparable literary style. Mr. Ruskin, who was in his eighty-first year, died at his home at Brantwood, Coniston, in the English lake-country. The loss which his death creates, though as we have said not acute, is nevertheless real, since few men of his time have exercised a more remarkable influence in the sphere of art or have by their genius and fervor done more than he to call men's minds to the inner beauties and deeper meanings of natural phenomena and to the ethical aspects of things æsthetic. Among laymen his power as a moral teacher has been great, for in all his labors and aims Mr. Ruskin set before himself a high, if somewhat quixotic, ideal of life, and with great earnestness did much not only for the elevation of his humbler fellow-men, but for the development among all classes of sound artistic taste and the enriching and spiritualizing of their daily life. His insight was great, though his enthusiasm led him frequently into extravagances and to assumptions in regard to art, from which other and competent critics emphatically dissented. This habit of exaggeration is especially true of him when he left the domain of art, into which youthful enthusiasm first led him, for that of social philosophy and economics. Ruskin's excursions into the latter fields and the strange jumble of Christian communism to which, late in life, he gave vehement expression, have detracted much from his early fame. In everything he wrote the Ruskinian spirit comes strongly out, colored with an amiable egotism and enforced by great assurance of conviction. The moral purpose he had in view, and the charm and elevated tone of his writings, lead us at times to forget the wholly ideal state of society he sought to introduce, and we are won to the man by the passion of his noble enthusiasms.

G. MERCER ADAM.

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO CHESS CLUB.

The club has adopted the plan of handicap play to advantage in bringing up new material. It is regretted, however, that more beginners do not avail themselves of the opportunities offered by the club to develop their powers in a game that may doubtless give them considerable pleasure in years to come. The results of the open and handicap tournaments now in progress are as yet unobtainable.

The history of the club this year has been made notable by the successful formation of a Toronto Chess League with the Y.M.C.A. and the Athenæum. In years past matches have been played, but always as between friendly clubs and for sake of the play, and not the trophy as well as the play. In all these matches Varsity has, the circumstances being considered, made a very creditable showing. As the Varsity club is ever gaining in power and experience, and as graduates are continually being found who play well and are pleased to represent their old Alma Mater, the near future will very probably see them land the trophy. The results of the matches (hitherto unpublished in THE VARSITY) are as follows:

FIRST MATCH, DEC. 9TH, 1899, VARSITY VS. ATHENÆUM, 6—6.

N. S. Shenstone.....	1	Saunders	0
R. G. Hunter	1	Freeland	0
S. F. Shenstone	$\frac{1}{2}$	Braithwaite.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Prof. Mavor.....	0	Boulton	1
R. R. Bradley.....	1	Bressee	0
Mr. Morgan	0	Eadis	1
Prof. Hutton	0	Muntz	1
Mr. Burton	0	Taylor	1
F. E. Brown	1	Adams	0
A. W. Keith	0	Woods	1
F. P. Clappison	$\frac{1}{2}$	Dr. Watson.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
Hodgson	1	Butler	0

Chief of note was the win of N. S. Shenstone from Saunders, who in '97 and '98 tied for the championship of Canada, and that of R. G. Hunter from Freeland, who is considered one of the best of Canadian players.

SECOND MATCH, JAN. 13TH, 1900, VARSITY VS. Y.M.C.A., 3—9.

N. S. Shenstone.....	0	Dr. Meyer	1
R. G. Hunter	1	Branton	0
S. F. Shenstone	0	R. B. Howell	1
Beck.....	0	Davison	1
Prof. Mavor.....	0	Simpson	1
Mr. Gibson.....	1	Willans	0
R. R. Bradley.....	0	J. A. Howell	1
Mr. Burton	0	R. B. Powell	1
F. E. Brown	0	Kaney	1
A. W. Keith	0	Crompton	1
Clappison.....	1	Smith	0
Hodgson	0	J. Powell	1

3RD MATCH, JAN. 27TH, 1900, VARSITY VS. ATHENÆUM, 3—9.

R. G. Hunter	$\frac{1}{2}$	Taylor.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
N. S. Shenstone.....	$\frac{1}{2}$	Braithwaite.....	$\frac{1}{2}$
S. F. Shenstone.....	1	Muntz	0
Mr. Beck.....	0	Boulton.....	1
R. R. Bradley.....	0	Freeland	1
Prof. Hutton.....	0	Eddis	1
Dr. Price Brown.....	0	Blythe	1
A. W. Keith.....	0	Snelgrove.....	1
F. E. Brown.....	0	Hill.....	1
Clappison.....	1	Dr. Watson.....	0
Hodgson	0	Woods	1
Gould.....	0	Amsden	1

The *Globe* of Jan. 29th, '00, made special mention of the games S. F. Shenstone vs. Muntz, Beck vs. Boulton and Freeland vs. Bradley.

4TH MATCH, FEB. 13TH, 1900, VARSITY VS. Y.M.C.A., 5 $\frac{1}{2}$ —6 $\frac{1}{2}$

R. G. Hunter	1	Dr. Meyer	0
N. S. Shenstone.....	1	Davison	0
S. F. Shenstone	$\frac{1}{2}$	Branton	$\frac{1}{2}$
Mr. Gibson.....	1	Willans	0
R. R. Bradley.....	0	R. B. Howell	1
F. E. Brown	0	Sims.....	1
Mr. Bowers.....	0	Spencer	1
Mr. Morgan.....	0	J. A. Howell	1
Clappison.....	1	Simpson	0
Hodgson	0	Kaney	1
Prof. Hutton	1	G. K. Powell	0
Burton	0	Crompton	(default) 1

It may safely be said that the Chess Club, although less prominent in student affairs than many other student organizations, is nevertheless not less ambitious, and nobly bears its burden in sustaining the University's prestige abroad.