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IN the last number of the JOURNAL there appeared a brief outline of the work of the recent Alumni Conference and also the proposed programme for the meetings for '96. A comparison of these plainly shews the latter to be of a much more practical character than the former; but the special feature to which we wish to call attention at present, is the introduction of "Social Reunions of Members of the Conference," to take place in the afternoon. This has been inspired by a keen and progressive spirit, who has noticed a tendency to dullness and formality in the meetings of the past, and who desires more unrestrained social intercourse among Alumni who have seen very little of each other for years. The Conferences have been of the highest value and have been made so by dint of hard work, but they should not be a steady "grind" morning, noon, and night. Queen's College is no *monastic* retreat for solitary meditation. It was really painful to see many of the Alumni last February toiling away at lectures for seven hours a day, snatching one another's arms for a few minutes chat between bells, and trudging lonesomely home to their meals only to return to more lectures. With apologies to these gentlemen for what may seem to be rather a severe scoring, we suggest that the idea of social reunions be expanded. Let a common dining place be arranged, either at a hotel or large boarding house, where all the members of the Conference,

together with the divinity students, could meet every day from 1 P.M. to 3 P.M. If we had a residence at Queen's this would be easy, but we believe that there would be no serious difficulty in arranging suitable accommodation. No elaborate menu would be necessary, the expense would be little more than the cost of ordinary board, and everything could be under the supervision of a committee of students and local Alumni. If a feast of reason and flow of soul, and all the rest, would not be forthcoming, it would not be the fault of two or three of the leading lights of the Conference. On the surface, such a suggestion may seem impracticable, but we do not think so. No time need be squandered and the utilizing of the noon-hour makes its adoption entirely independent of the question whether or not less work should be attempted. The benefits of such free and easy association are apparent. The spirits of the members would be sharpened and they would go to their work with new zest. Former friends could renew their intimacy and learn, in a degree impossible at formal meetings, how the real man had been progressing since college days. The older men could come into contact with the younger, and the great brotherhood of those who are filled with Queen's spirit would be welded more closely together.

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The social element is far from lacking in our college life; indeed, it may be said to be strong, but it is not as widespread as it ought to be; in other words, its effects do not sufficiently pervade all classes of students. Of course, there is the *Conversazione*, the great social event of the session, and the Freshman's reception, a star of less magnitude, yet withal a bright one. But the proportion of students who take advantage of these is not large, and the social education of those who do not is often sadly neglected. The popularity that class meetings once had (and they were often of a purely social character) has been gradually weakening, and they are coming to mean little or nothing. Some of the boys, it is rumored, have been holding very successful "at homes" in their rooms, and the ladies, they say, keep a jovial hearth-fire burning in the upper regions. These are hopeful signs of a better acquaintanceship of the students with one another, but we do protest strongly against the dis-