

The College Girl

successful "returns," while Smith showed the value of the more complicated attacks when well performed.

To draw a lesson from the contest just closed, I would take this opportunity of pointing those now preparing for the junior tournament to the necessity of mastering the primary movements in fencing, and learning to make the first attacks with speed and directness.

Two gold medals, beautifully designed, have been presented to the club by the Honorary President, Mr. E. Q. Sifton—one for fencing and the other for single-stick. The first of course has been won by Bertram and the second yet remains to be contested for. The single-stick tournament will likely take place in about three weeks. The executive of the club has also been trying to arrange an inter-collegiate fencing contest. Apparently the Royal Military College is the only one which possesses a fencing club. We expect a representative from Kingston at the Assault-at-Arms, when a representative from our club will defend the trophy which it is proposed to secure for an inter-collegiate tournament.

In closing these few remarks I wish to express the thanks of the executive to the judges who kindly consented to act at the Senior tournament—Dr. Needler, Messrs. Ross and J. Falconbridge, and Instructor-Sergt. Williams.

On behalf of the University of Toronto Fencing Club.

R. M. MILLMAN.

THE HARMONIC CLUB CONCERT

The Harmonic Club concert in the Normal Theatre on Feb. 23rd, closed the actual work of the Club in its initial year. The work, as a whole, has been satisfactory, and has justified the promoters of the Club in their endeavor to raise the standard of such organizations around college.

Friday night was not an ideal concert night, and the bad weather, combined with other collegiate social attractions, prevented many friends of the Harmonic Club being present. The attendance of the student body was conspicuous—I mean conspicuous by its absence. In this very fact lies a problem which future executives of the Club will have to solve. Why does not the undergraduate body in Toronto University support its Glee Club as similar organizations in other universities are supported by their undergraduate bodies?

Fair criticisms of the programme place it among the best in recent years. In addition to the chorus numbers of the glee and instrument departments, amongst which the vocal chorus, "The Shades of Night" seemed to be the favorite, there were some combined numbers of the Club and the Sherlock Male Quartette. "The Man Behind the Gun" made a special hit, as this was the first occasion on which it had been sung before a Toronto audience. The quartette acquitted itself with the usual honors, giving a couple of humorous college selections as encores. Mr. J. M. Sherlock gave a delightful rendering of "Adieu Marie," and Mr. E. B. Jackson, the club's baritone soloist, took the audience by storm. Musical people are beginning to realize that some of the college boys can sing, and are saying very encouraging things about them. The Banjo Club—the old favorite with Toronto people—played a couple of its characteristic marches in conjunction with the College of Music Mandolin and Banjo Club. Mr. Frank Brophay, in his inimitable character sketches, proved himself a good entertainer. The singing of the National Anthem and the Varsity yell, in which some of the Ladies College girls took part, brought this successful concert to a close.

The last regular meeting of the Women's Literary Society was held on Saturday evening, and the usual bad weather prevailed. The committee has had peculiarly bad luck in having to make the meetings successful in spite of the ill-will of the weather prophet. This last meeting, however, was the crowning glory of the series of meetings for the year which have proved so entertaining and so typical of the aims of the Society, Miss Allen and Miss Peers began the programme with a piano duet, played with their usual facility. Miss Ballard read a careful and concise survey of Ruskin's work, dwelling not so much on his writing, as on his life and character. His most prominent characteristic, she said, was his love for the beautiful, yet he was more than a mystic in love with nature, more than merely a critic of art; he was a man of action with the courage of his convictions, an idealist with a dauntless faith in his ideals and a gallant spirit of enterprise. Whatever he thought ought to be done, he was willing to attempt, and do his share of, single-handed if need be. For instance, having once written that the taste for art should be cultivated in the masses, he did his best by giving his services to night-schools and art schools to carry out the idea. Acting on the principle that a man of great wealth should not retain it, he generously gave away both his inherited fortune and that acquired by his own labours in literature, partly to needy relatives and friends, partly to public institutions, especially for the purpose of making a good collection of pictures and other works of art. His contribution to the æsthetic in everyday life was perhaps greater than anyone's except perhaps that of the late William Morris. He had, too, a lofty ideal of what a book should be, and had a melodious style of his own that is beyond praise. First, we should notice his love of justice, power of honestly facing the problems of life and society, strong sense of the value of men as men, and above all, his strong sense of individual influence and responsibility, especially of the influence and power of women. He thought he failed in many of the dearest projects of his life, but after all,

"The greatest thing a hero leaves his race
Is to have been a hero."

The paper was concluded by a short selection from "The Crown of Wild Olives." Miss Conlin and Miss Gundy then waged bloody war with the foils in a fencing bout, in which Miss Gundy was undone by a few points. A song "Meeting" followed, by Miss Dora McMurtry, who is a singer too well known in Toronto to need commendation here, whereupon an encore was enthusiastically demanded and Miss McMurtry responded charmingly with "There Little Girl, Don't Cry." The *piece de resistance*, however, was one of J. K. Bang's amusing little comedies, presented by Miss Cameron, Miss Filshie, Miss Preston, Miss Martin, Miss Hughes and Miss McAlpine. The play was any amount of fun, but as the characters were not people of any special characteristics, it depended principally for its effect on the funny situations. At times, the players did not seem to recognize this, and lacked animation just where it was most required. Yet there is room for extenuation, for the actors had a very short time in which to prepare their parts. After the play, the chairs were pushed away for the lancers until supper was served. By the kindness of Mrs. Alexander, the enjoyable evening was terminated in this particularly jolly fashion. At the close of the meeting a vote of thanks was tendered to her for her contribution to the enjoyment. Mrs. Fraser, Miss Salter, Miss Janet Street and Miss G. O. Burgess were amongst the visitors.