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Editorial Comments.



FROM time to time the proposal has been made in the columns of THE VARSITY and elsewhere to establish a course of lectures in the college to be given by men from other parts of Canada and from Great Britain and the United States, who have attained to eminence in particular departments of thought or action. It is a system which prevails largely in American universities, and has been followed by the best results. However excellent our own professors may be their time is entirely occupied with the regular curriculum work of their respective departments, and we can hardly expect anything in the way of supererogation from them. Once last year, indeed, a move was made in this direction by one of our own lecturers, and it is safe to say that few more interesting events occurred during Easter Term than Mr. Fairclough's two lectures on Greek sculpture and architecture. It is for the want of such special and extraordinary occasions that our University life most seriously suffers. Weeks and weeks pass by and nothing whatever occurs in our intellectual world to vary the hum-drum monotony that will sometimes afflict even the most active and versatile mind no matter how excellent the prescribed and time-tabled curriculum lectures may be. If those in authority should take hold of the matter and invite distinguished men from other cities to lecture before the University of Toronto, we are sure that the scheme would be met with a responsive enthusiasm on the part of the undergraduates which would itself repay the inaugurators for all the trouble expended. And, if they, through lack of time or for other reasons, do not see their way to the adoption of the proposal, why should not the students themselves, through their own organization, the Literary Society, endeavor to do something in the matter?

According to the calendar of 1890, the medal in modern languages is to be given in future in the Third instead of in the Fourth Year. The present graduating class will therefore have had no opportunity of competing for a medal. This is only another example of the many gross injustices practised by our authorities at present in the distribution of medals. To refuse to one year the privilege of competing for a medal is tantamount to depriving some one of a medal fairly deserved. The Senate in their distribution of the highest honors that crown university education act with as much whimsical naïveté and playful irregularity as a child dealing out candy from a bag.

It is pleasing to observe the enthusiasm with which the Medicals have responded to the invitation to nominate editors for THE VARSITY from their number. This evidence of the growth of closer relations and more intimate intercourse between the students of the two faculties must be

indeed gratifying to all who desire to see the undergraduates of our University bound together in a firmer unity. We welcome our medical *confrères* to our sanctum, and see in their entrance an augury of better days.

We understand, on good authority, that the Education Department has decided to hold a common examination for entrance into all the universities of the Province. A Board of Examiners will be appointed by the Department and will doubtless be so arranged as to represent all the universities great or small. This means that the matriculation examination into Toronto will be under the management of the Department and all the universities, instead of the Department and University of Toronto as has been the case heretofore. The provincial universities, apparently, have to have all the disadvantages of such a university and none of the advantages thereof.

We would call attention to the very unsatisfactory condition of things in the reading-room which the Y.M.C.A. authorities have so generously placed at the disposal of the students. Some of the men who work there have evidently had no training in the reading-room ethics of the times before the Fire, when even the most subdued conversation would be vigorously "stamped" down. The old spirit of order and of polite consideration for others, which then prevailed, seems to have perished in the flames. There has been a break in traditional custom, but we hope that general opinion will soon enforce as stern a morality as ever.

The article of Miss C. Ross published elsewhere is one worthy of attentive perusal. While perhaps not agreeing with all the views expressed therein we are free to admit that her point as to the full signification of the term "Class Society" had not occurred to us. Perhaps some one who has felt the apparent justice of the argument and refuted it may be able to show the position taken by Miss Ross to be illogical. We invite brief expression of opinion on the question.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

The sports are over and the School of Science tug-of-war team is again the proud possessor of the championship medals.

The new laboratories in the Chemical Department (north wing) are nearing completion, and promise to be a great improvement on the old ones, in both accommodation and convenience.

The work of putting in the machinery in the Mechanical Department is progressing very favorably. It is expected that before long the fifty horse-power engine will be completed and ready for use.

A new arrival at the school is an inoffensive-looking hose reel with equipment, which stands in the basement corridor. Several of the senior men were practising with the "weapon" a few days ago, but it is proper to add that the target was not a freshman.