

CHESS CLUB.

The first meeting of the Chess Club was held on Tuesday last in Room 7. Mr. C. M. Keys, '97, was selected Secretary, and Mr. S. F. Shenstone, '00, Curator. The Treasurer's report showed the finances of the Club to be in a flourishing condition, and it was decided to reduce the fee to 25 cents. The annual tournament will be held in a few weeks, when the valuable cup donated last year, and other prizes, will be competed for. Matches will be played with other clubs. It is hoped that all chess players will turn out and help to make the year a successful one for the Club.

VARSITY GLEE CLUB.

The members of the Glee Club have now "broken the back" of their most difficult part songs, and are rapidly perfecting them in style and finish. The boys are all eager to do their very best at the concert on December 11, and are practising hard in order that the hitherto high musical reputation of the Club may not suffer at their hands. The Club intend to take an extended tour in the west after the concert in the city, and, among other places, will visit Detroit. Detroit has been visited by the Glee Clubs of all the larger American colleges, and this will put the boys on their mettle to prove to our neighbors across the line that the Toronto University Glee Club is second to no organization of its kind in America.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

At the last meeting of the Natural Science Association forty-one joined the society, which augurs well for its success during the incoming year. Last Tuesday, 10th inst., was a Darwin meeting, and W. H. McNairn, '99, gave a most interesting biography of the great scientist, whose quiet labors produced the greatest and most complete revolution in scientific thought known in the world's history. The great principle of Natural Selection was expounded in an erudite manner by F. S. Selwood, '97. All organs are subject to variation. Useful variations persist and development proceeds. This again is subject to the struggle for existence, which eliminates all but the fittest to survive. Individual differences lead to varieties, and these to subspecies and species. The subject was followed by an active discussion. At the next meeting, on Tuesday, 24th inst., at 5 p.m., Dalton will be studied by the Association.

NOTES FROM THE BIOLOG.

The largest class on record is now working in the fourth year Laboratory—Natural Science.

We gentlemen of this side of the lawn are often impolitely called plugs. We deny the allegation and invite inspection in our laboratories from two to five any afternoon. We have too superior a time in our own department to engage with much vivacity in the trivialities over which many of the other courses attempt to create a tempest. However, you will find us represented in most things by our Freds, Rowley, Chris, George and Charlie.

The second year Meds. were enjoying football on Olie's front lawn when a message came from Cobdom that they were to kindly retire.

Our front yard, after a few weeks of disruption, is again in order, and reflects great credit on our landscape gardener and his assistants.

The third year have of late examined the earth between here and Scarboro' Heights in the interest of Geological research. Ye benighted juniors!

The vim of an ordinary Med. is proverbial. A chain lightning attack was made on the north fence, which was laid low amidst tremendous éclat.

S. P. S. NOTES.

The regular meeting of the Engineering Society was held on the 11th inst. The report of the committee on the consolidation of the by-laws, not being ready, was held over. Discussion on the constitution was continued. An additional officer to the general committee, and an assistant librarian, from the second year, was decided upon. All the clauses having been gone over, it only remained to adopt the constitution as a whole; but as it was undecided how much of it should go into force at once, the discussion was adjourned until the next meeting. An instructive paper, "Some Causes of Failure in Shafting," by Mr. Carlisle Wallace, a Scotch engineer, was read by the corresponding secretary. Some interesting facts were disclosed with regard to the breaking of propeller shafts of ocean liners. This is quite a common accident nowadays; and it has been argued that the cause of such was the bending communicated to the shaft by the ship in a heavy sea. But Mr. Wallace calculated that in order to bend the shaft sufficiently to cause rupture, the outer plates of the ship would have to be strained beyond all possible limits.

An analysis of the atmosphere of Lecture Room 2, at two minutes past eleven on Tuesday morning, showed the following composition:

Carbon dioxide	.....	209.7 cu. cm. per litre.
Nitrogen	.....	790.3 " "
Oxygen	.....	0 " "

It also possessed the following physical properties:

Odor	.....	Stuffy.
Density (air = 1)	.....	4
Color	.....	Blue
Secitility	.....	Can be cut with a knife.

Our Annual Dinner will be held this year on the 4th of December, and promises to be a grand success. The following committee are in charge of the affair: C. F. King, chairman; R. McArthur, secretary; F. Smallpiece, vice-chairman; Macbeth, Bain, Andrews, Carpenter, Collins, Little, Burnside and Allan, committee.

The electrical students of the fourth year enjoyed a very pleasant evening on Saturday at the residence of Mr. Rosebrugh.

CROSS-COUNTRY RUN.

The Editor of Varsity:

DEAR SIR,—I was very much astonished to see in the last issue of VARSITY a statement that it was probable that the Athletic directorate would not hold the annual cross-country run on account of the small entry list. It seems to me that the Athletic directorate could hardly expect a large entry in view of the course that they had chosen. The length of this so-called *cross-country* run is, I understand, about seven miles, and yet of this distance at least three miles is to be run through the public streets of the city. If the members of the Athletic directorate have been over the course they have chosen, they would see how totally unfitted that part of it is that lies along Bloor Street. As there is practically no boulevard, it would be necessary for the competitor to run either in the road or on the sidewalk, a choice of two evils, for nothing is more dangerous or injurious to a well-trained athlete than to run on a track as hard as either of these would be. Again, it seems to me that the distance is too great, and that a shorter course, say five miles, would draw a much larger entry. I think the Athletic directorate should, in laying plans for this event, make the run itself of more importance, and not pay so much attention to the dinner that follows. Therefore, I should like to suggest that in future years, if not in this, they should shorten the distance and make it purely and simply a cross-country run, attaching far greater importance to the run than to the dinner.

Yours, etc., STUDENT.