

Editorials.

Rules of Procedure :—

"Let all things be done decently and in order," was the injunction given by the Apostle to his Corinthian converts ; and that such decency and orderliness is essential to the very existence of organized societies, no matter of what description, is almost too trite a remark to be made. From the great parliamentary bodies which govern our land, down to the pettiest of clubs, all have their constitutions and their rules of procedure. We, as a body of students, have always sought to encourage orderly and systematic methods, and so our college societies form no exception to the above rule.

The by-laws laid down in the constitutions of our several societies are as close an imitation of parliamentary rules and principles as the cases will allow ; and it certainly cannot be denied that such a plan is attended with not a few advantages. The method of nominating candidates for office and voting for them by ballot gives, to the societies, themselves, an unmistakable business-like tone, and to all their individual members, a chance of hearing the honors and responsibilities of a semi-public life.

But while such a method is attended with a great number of advantages, we, at the same time, cannot shut our eyes to the fact that its employment is apt to be accompanied also with some of the evils of the prototype on which it is formed : and one of these, and by no means the least objectionable, is the engendering of a party spirit, such a spirit as ought not to exist in societies like our own.

We desire, however, not to be misunderstood here. We do not say that this is the necessary result of the introduc-

tion of parliamentary methods, or that parties are unmitigated evils, and that we could get along without them. We are not disciples of Mr. Goldwin Smith, nor do we believe in his doctrines, but we firmly maintain that a sharp line of distinction can be drawn, and ought to be drawn, between parties and partyism. We believe that the one can exist without the other. The rules of parliamentary procedure can be carried out without the employment of any of its "schemes" and "dodges," and the election of candidates to the offices of our college societies ought to be, and in the great majority of instances are, so carried on. What we would wish to see, however, is a spirit of more open-hearted generosity and goodwill in our elections. We would remind our fellow-students and ourselves, that there are greater causes to be advocated and more desirable ends to be attained than those represented by our college societies. The unity and brotherhood of our college are of far more importance than all its societies and all its organs ; and every student should see to it that no rule of procedure shall in any way tend to mar them. If parties and elections tend in the slightest degree to sever the strong bond of union which does exist, and ought to exist, among us as college students, we would say then away with such methods, and away with such rules ; and if the doing away with such methods and rules means the dissolution of our societies and organs, we do not hesitate in saying, then away with the societies and away with the organs.

Attending Prayer Meetings :—

Prayer meetings are not as well attended as they should be. What is the cause, and what is the cure ? The chief