

culants would be increased by these means, and as a consequence, the interests of the University more widely extended.

IT is our opinion that the present system of holding the Matriculation Examinations in October might be altered with considerable advantage. As a rule matriculants are prepared for college in High Schools, all of which close their year's work at the end of June. The High School Intermediate Examinations then follow, and it would seem appropriate that simultaneously with these examinations those students who have prepared for College Matriculation should be examined. The succeeding hot months of July and August are not favourable for severe study, and the candidates would be apt to pass as good an examination in June as in the following October, and, moreover, those who do pass would be enabled to see in what subject their special excellence or deficit is shewn by the number of marks obtained, and govern themselves accordingly in the interim before entering College. The adoption of such a plan as we mention would be hailed with considerable satisfaction by High School instructors, as well as by the matriculants themselves.

SEVERAL old and respected graduates of Queen's have recently been complaining of the fact that the Alma Mater Society has forsaken its early principles and degenerated into a Debating Club. We are told that the Society was originally intended for a band of union between graduates and the College generally. Why is it not so still? We reply that it is, and in the only way practicable.

When graduates remove from the city the Society of course is debarred from the benefit of their further attendance personally, but the JOURNAL which is the organ of the Alma Mater Society, seeks as far as possible to preserve the College feeling among the

graduates. Any suggestions which they may have to offer find a ready expression in the columns of the JOURNAL, and if in the past the wide and varied experience of the graduates of Queen's has not found sufficient voice in the deliberations of the Society we can only suggest that those interested have not availed themselves of the proper channel of communication.

COLLEGE endowments are increasing in number and magnitude in every section of the continent of America, and in noticing the fact it is easy to recognize the vast power which the colleges, equipped by these means, must necessarily exert in the moulding of the nation's future. To place a liberal education within the reach of the poor as well as the rich is an ambition worthy of the generously-inclined, and to the credit of Western cosmopolitanism be it said, the number of institutions where the higher branches of study are taught virtually without expense to the student is largely in excess of the number of similar institutions existing in the Old World. America may well be proud of her Universities, which, although not as yet enshrouded in a mist of classical antiquity, are rapidly attaining the exalted position of being acknowledged centres of intellectual vigor, and fosterers of liberty and culture. We are not defending the policy of increasing the number of University charters *ad libitum* which is a sign rather of weakness than strength, but we do commend the far-seeing liberality of capitalists who now, more than at any previous time, are turning their surplus wealth into educational channels. In a country where the University system is almost entirely divorced from Governmental patronage, it is to private benefactors that the advocates of higher education must turn for assistance, and we conceive it to be one of the strongest evidences of a healthy public