

we would suggest the advisability of a more systematic culture, while at College, of the powers which are to be brought into such prominence in after life. No treatises on elocution will enable a novice in public speaking to overcome the timidity peculiar to first attempts, and the present is the golden opportunity for acquiring the confidence and ease of address, which are the first requisites in platform oratory. Besides mere attention to the voice, gesture and manner, (details of paramount importance to the finished speaker), a person cannot expect to become skilled in extempore delivery until he has time and again measured weapons with his opponents in friendly debate, and become accustomed to having his arguments probed with merciless criticism.

We have within our University just the training school needed, in the weekly debates of the Alma Mater Society. This Society has wisely made the debates the principal feature in its meetings, and of the success which has attended those held in the past it is not necessary for us here to speak. The interest taken in these meetings, however, might be considerably enhanced, were there a larger attendance of members of the Society, and more carefully chosen subjects of debate. Notwithstanding these deficiencies, the debates are a credit to the Society, and are highly prized as a means of improvement by an increasing number of the undergraduates. We observe with regret, however, that many students habitually neglect the meetings of the Society, and we are persuaded that their own interests should suggest a more frequent attendance.

ONE of the peculiarities of College life is the fondness for College songs developed by all students alike. Youths, who never sang in their lives before, as soon as they don the cap and gown, and become imbued with the spirit of College life, appear

to suddenly acquire a taste for singing, and their voices may be heard loudest in rendering the songs which echo through the Academic halls. The force of association may have much to do with this, but the main reason is, doubtless, the craving for variety, which the best students necessarily feel at certain times. The harder the work the greater the rebound when it is over, and no species of recreation seems to furnish such immediate results as a rousing chorus joined in by all the students. Any one who is at all familiar with College routine will understand this fact.

Our object here is not to unduly criticize this natural flow of animal spirits, but rather to encourage its continuance, and at the same time to suggest the employment of respectable College music in place of the doggerel which is usually the students' vehicle of expression.

We are glad to observe that a new College song book is in process of compilation by Mr. Orville Brewer, of Chicago. This publication will contain the words and music of the best college songs in existence, and it is undertaken with a view to elevating the class of college music in general. In this book the songs, together with the music, are to be the production of college students, *i.e.*, they are to be original, and as no less than fifty of the leading colleges in the United States and Canada have been invited to contribute to its pages the musical gems of each respectively, it may confidently be expected to surpass all former efforts in this direction. Each of the fifty colleges mentioned is allotted space for *four* songs, and as Queen's is included in this number, we hope the originality of our students will be exercised to the extent desired. We are of the opinion that the creation of a distinctive class of college music, worthy of being produced before a critical audience, is a laudable ambition for college-men in general, and in a large de-