

UNIVERSITY AND COLLEGE NEWS.

All reports from Societies must reach us by noon on Thursday to secure insertion.

TO SUBSCRIBERS.

Subscriptions to THE VARSITY for the current year are now due. The treasurer desires that all accounts should be paid immediately. Subscribers living at a distance will much oblige by remitting direct to Mr. J. S. Johnston by post-office order or otherwise.

THE COBourg LOOK-OUT.

Upon learning of the suspension of Messrs. McLaughlin and Langford, respectively, Editor-in-chief and Local Editor of *Acta Victoriana*, the Editors of THE VARSITY addressed the following message to them :—

"We heartily sympathize with the *Acta* Editors and endorse the stand taken.—EDITORS THE VARSITY."

The following response reached THE VARSITY soon after :—

"Thanks. Hope to vindicate the rights of college journalists yet.—MCLAUGHLIN AND LANGFORD."

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The Engineering Society held its annual meeting in the School of Science on Saturday evening, the 31st March. Reports of General Committee, of secretary-treasurer, of librarian and of the auditors were read. The election of officers resulted as follows :

President.....	H. E. T. Haultain
Vice-President.....	T. R. Roseburgh
Secretary-Treasurer.....	W. Eamen
Third-year Councillor.....	T. Wickett
Second-year Councillor.....	C. E. Peterson
Corresponding Secretary.....	F. X. Mill

Retiring president Prof. Galbraith and others addressed the meeting. A thousand copies of the society's annual pamphlet, containing the papers read before the Society during the year, have been published, and will be exchanged for the papers of other engineering societies throughout Canada and the United States.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The annual meeting of the Society was held on Tuesday afternoon, April 3rd., in the west end lecture room. The annual reports of the treasurer and of the general committee were read and approved. The elections for officers resulted as follows : President, A. C. McKay, B.A.; Vice-President, D. Hull; Sec'y-Treas., C. A. Chant; Corresponding-Sec'y, A. W. Campbell; 4th Year Councillor, J. McCallum; 3rd Year Councillor, T. H. Whitelaw; 2nd Year Councillor, T. C. Dordge. After speeches from the newly elected officers and Mr. Mulvey, the meeting adjourned. Mr. Mulvey has filled the president's chair for the last two years, ably and acceptably, and retires with the thanks and best wishes of the Society.

UNIVERSITY LIBRARY MANAGEMENT.

In the reply which the Librarian of Cornell University sent to THE VARSITY'S circular (see No. 10), reference is made to the regulations which govern the Library of that institution. Mr. Harris was good enough to send a copy of the printed regulations, part of which are here re-produced :—

"For students of the University and others the Library is strictly a reference library. Graduate students are admitted to the alcoves, and, upon the recommendation of the professor in any department, members of the Senior and Junior classes engaged in work requiring special research, are granted admission, for limited periods, to the alcoves, for purposes of consultation and investigation.

"All Graduates and Seniors have free access during Library hours to the collections in the Seminary Room (adjoining the main Library), containing the current numbers of one hundred and fifty of the principal historical, literary, and philological periodicals, and some two thousand volumes of works relating to American History, English History, and Political Science, selected with special reference to the needs of students engaged in advanced work.

"All Undergraduates have unrestricted access to the collection of encyclopedias, dictionaries, and general works of reference in the reading-room, and also to the cases containing the works re-

served from time to time by professors for the use of classes. Other books desired by students are supplied by the attendants, who are instructed to give every assistance in their power to those who use the Library."

The Card "of Admission" also referred to by Mr. Harris, contains on one side instructions to the holder as to the shelves and the press marks on the books. On the other side, in addition to library a blank for the holder's name, the dates and the special department of the library he wishes to consult, the following notice is printed :

"This permission, good only for its date, entitles the bearer to consult the shelves in the department specified, and such shelves only; the general freedom of the library being expressly reserved. This ticket must be shown on the demand of any officer, and must be surrendered on passing out. It is absolutely required that books must be returned to their proper places according to shelf marks."

"Mr. Wm. W. Spangler, of Indiana State University, in his reply (see No. 5) refers THE VARSITY, for further information in answer to query No. 3, to a pamphlet on "College Libraries as Aids to instruction," by Justin Winsor and Otis H. Robinson, (*Circular of Instruction, No. 1, 1880*, issued by the U. S. Bureau of Education. The following extracts are taken from this circular. Justin Winsor says : "To fulfil its rightful destiny, the library should become the central agency of our college methods, and not remain a subordinate one, which it too often is. It is too often thought of last in developing efficiency and awarding appropriations; committed very largely to the charge of an over-worked professor, who values it as a help to his income rather than an instrumentality for genuine college work; equipped with few, or even without any, proper appliances for bibliographical scrutiny; and wanting in all those administrative provisions that make it serviceable to-day and keep it so to-morrow.

"The proposition, then, is to make the library the grand rendezvous of the College for teacher and pupil alike, and to do in it as much of the teaching as is convenient and practicable. This cannot be done with a meagre collection of books indiscriminately selected, with an untidy, ill-lighted, uncomfortable apartment. The library should be to the College much what the dining-room is to the house—the place to invigorate the system under cheerful conditions with a generous fare and a good digestion. It may require some sacrifices in other directions to secure this, but even under unfavourable conditions the librarian can do much to make his domain attractive."

"If the librarian and his co-adjutors, the instructors of the College, are to work for a common end effectually, the collection gathered about them must be catalogued. This means no rough work of the auctioneer's kind, but scholarly and faithful inquiry embodied in a fixed and comprehensive method. Every book must be questioned persistently as to its author, its kind, its scope, its relations to all knowledge. Answers to all these questions must be made record of, once for all. Let not the cost frighten; a library without such an index is no library, but a mob of books."

Otis H. Robinson, of Rochester University, writes :—"The idea that a college librarian may serve the classes as an instructor quite as successfully as the professor of Latin or of Mathematics, is beginning to take root. It is beginning to be understood also that teachers can make an important use of the library in giving their regular instruction. In many places the libraries are becoming so large that careful attention must be given by readers to selection. The time has passed when a smart reader could exhaust the resources of a library on a given subject in a few weeks. Time is lacking now, not books."

"When all these means have been provided—cyclopædias and dictionaries in abundance, catalogues and indexes in the most perfect order, and all the appointments of the Library convenient and attractive—we have but opened the door and made the access easy. It remains to awaken and direct an interest in the books, for very few students will become regular and systematic readers merely from a sense of duty, whatever may be their facilities for finding the best reading when they want it. The trouble is, in many cases, that they do not want it. The want must first be created and then supplied. How is this to be done? We believe that it cannot be done well by shutting up the cases and requiring the student to stop with the cyclopædia, catalogue, and index, and depend on an assistant librarian for the rest. This would be paving the road to the library and forbidding anyone to travel it. Education is best when it stimulates inquiry, gives it in the right direction, and answers it. It is not idle curiosity which prompts a young man to take down books and turn them over. If he is a student it is the curiosity which he ought to have and to indulge. There is danger in it. This no one will deny. We have often seen books worth \$50 to \$100 taken down from the shelves, turned over for half an hour, and put up again, with no more care than would be given to those which could be replaced for 50 cents. It has cost us a shudder. But then we have remembered that those costly books were here to be used, and that the student was here to use them, and if it were not for his curiosity and his freedom to gratify it, both these ends would very likely be defeated. And we have remembered also that the student may be one of the scholars of the next generation, and that he may be beginning here a life work among books, and that the whole course