

COMMUNICATIONS.

To the Editor:

DEAR SIR:—I read with much interest an editorial in your last issue dealing with the last *Conversazione*, and would beg leave to enlarge on a few ideas therein expressed. In the first place, I agree with the writer that the last *Conversazione* was in many respects a failure. I also think he is right when he says that the failure was due to lack of interest on the part of the students, and I endorse the statement that the *Conversazione* lacked what was necessary to commend it to the majority of the professors and students, or else it contained elements sufficiently distasteful to keep them away. My diagnosis of the case agrees with the writer's, but I will go further in the matter and suggest a remedy. Having been more or less interested in the management of the last six entertainments of this nature, to my mind, the last one did not differ in its arrangements essentially from any of its immediate predecessors, but I have noticed that, during that time, the number of those who favor the present arrangements has gradually decreased, while those who take objection to the same have considerably increased. So that the lack of interest this year was not something which had never been experienced before, but was so noticeable because it was so extensive. I am convinced that a time has arrived in the history of *Conversazioni* for radical changes in their arrangement. I would here make a protest against the attitude of those towards the *Conversazione* who do not agree with the existing system of affairs. For example: A member of the A.M.S. having given notice of motion *re* the *Conversazione*, it is moved that it be held on a certain date; no objections are raised; the motion is passed, and a general committee struck, with full powers to act. This committee is always representative of every class and college in the University and consequently comprises those who agree or disagree with the present arrangements. A meeting of the general committee is called, those who agree attend, those who disagree absent themselves; subordinate committees are struck which are still representative. Now, what is the result? Those who agree do all they can to make the *Conversazione* a success, and it always is such for that class, but those who disagree take no notice of the matter and if, by chance, some of this class do attend, they are not satisfied with the evening's entertainment. Now, I do not, for one moment praise the present system, nor condemn the judgment of those who find fault, but I cannot admire the methods taken by those who disagree to change the present system. They treat the matter with silent contempt in the A.M.S., in the meeting of the general committee, and in the way of financial support.

Now, sir, silent contempt may be an admirable method of squelching an opponent, but it is not the way to deal with an affair which by its success or failure reflects either credit or discredit on every individual student in the University. Taking it for granted that there is something radically wrong with the present arrangement, I would suggest that a strong representative committee be appointed by the A.M.S. early next session, composed of those who favor or disapprove of the idea of having any *Conversazione*, those who agree or disagree with the present system, and also those who would favor some other entertainment such as a dinner, promenade concert, etc. Let this committee thoroughly thrash the whole matter out, and after all the grievances have been heard, and all views ventilated, I feel safe in saying that satisfactory arrangements will be adopted, although, if the truth must be told, before satisfactory arrangements can be reached, the question which is at the root of the whole difficulty, viz: whether dancing will be the most prominent item on the programme for the evening's entertainment, must be definitely and permanently settled. This question cannot be put off any longer, it must be fairly and squarely met. Surely it is not impossible to arrange a satisfactory programme for one evening's enjoyment, which will suit all classes or at least the great majority. I have enough confidence in the proverbial common sense of the students of Queen's to predict that on the stepping stones of this year's dissatisfaction and deficit they will rise to better things. My only apology for occupying so much of your space is, that I think the matter of a successful *Conversazione* is the most important question dealing with the common student university life which now disturbs reflecting members of our Alma Mater.

Respectfully,

FRANK HUGO.

Dear Mr. Editor:

An editorial in the last issue on "The boarding-house system" found a loud echo in the heart of many a Queen's student. Thinking over the affair I have wondered why the Y.M.C.A. could not effectually deal with this matter. Some time during the summer it prepares a list of boarding houses and this list is handed to Freshmen on arriving in the city. After trying some of these places many a man has lost some of his implicit confidence in the Y.M.C.A. Why could not the Y.M.C.A. prepare a list of houses every one of which would be certified to by the students living in them during the previous session. Many of the boarding houses very perceptibly ease up at the last of the session, counting on new boarders to take the place of those who leave in disgust. Such places could and should be carefully avoided. The above plan is feasible and would by