

SOCIETIES.

RECEPTION OF NEW MEMBERS INTO THE SODALITY.

A very beautiful and solemn ceremony took place in the University chapel on Sunday evening, the 10th inst., when thirteen young men enrolled their names under the banner of Mary Immaculate, and were formally received into her sodality.

The altars were profusely adorned with rich decorations, and the statue of our Blessed Lady was ornamented with exquisite wreaths and garlands, and illuminated with brilliant jets and numerous tapers.

While the postulants took their places in front of the sanctuary rail, a hymn was chanted in honour of the Blessed Virgin.

Rev. Father Fillatre, O.M.I., then mounted the pulpit and addressed an earnest and eloquent discourse to the Society and to those who were so soon to become its members, dwelling particularly upon the purity that should adorn those who march beneath the standard of our Immaculate Queen, and proposing prayer as the only sure means of preserving that angelic purity.

After the sermon, Mr. Albert Chabot came forward, and, on behalf of his fellow-postulants, read the common formula of application and promise of fidelity to the rules of the Society, upon which Rev. Father Nolin, O.M.I., the Director of the Sodality, assisted by the Prefect Mr. C. C. Delany and the Sacristan, received the applicants into the congregation, giving each a certificate of admission.

The ceremony closed with Benediction of the most Blessed Sacrament.

SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.

On April 16th the members of this society assembled in the Science Lecture Hall, to hear a series of astronomical papers read by the Juniors. On the motion of Messrs. McMillan and Gaudet, J. P. Collins took the chair, and introduced John McNally, who read the first paper on "The Moon." The subject was ably treated and the paper well written. It embraced the whole history of man's astronomical observations of the "queen of

night," clearly explaining and rejecting all the opinions of the ancients concerning it. Mr. McNally commented on the inestimable service done for astronomy, and especially for the study of the moon by Galileo's discovery of the telescope in the sixteenth century. He clearly explained all the moon's motions and phenomena, and the theories concerning its origin and present state. He then concluded with an interesting account of the various popular superstitions concerning the moon, many of which are still common among the uneducated.

Before the meeting opened, the members spent considerable time admiring the many-colored drawings and paintings decorating the hitherto blank walls, and many flattering remarks were passed on the artists. They were all illustrations of the sun and its various parts, placed there to simplify the lecture on the sun. They were drawn by the civil engineers, who received a vote of thanks from the society for their kindness. D. Murphy lectured for forty-five minutes on the sun, and his essay proved interesting throughout. After a beautiful introduction, he explained all the theories of the ancients, and an interesting account of all that has been done for the study of the sun by the telescope and spectroscope and photographer's camera. Mr. Murphy almost exhausted his subject by explaining and describing the composition and appearance of the whole sun and its various parts, the central mass, photosphere, atmosphere, chromosphere and corona. Next followed a description of the sun's various phenomena, and an account of its spots and all the theories concerning them. The principal theories of its origin, Faye's, Sechi's and LaPlace's, were well explained. That the future of the sun is no longer a matter of uncertainty, Mr. Murphy clearly demonstrated. Before long we may expect to see heat, fuel and motive power obtained from its potent rays.

The Chairman next announced T. Troy, who gave a short history of astronomy, illustrating his remarks with the aid of stereopticon views, kindly furnished to the society by Rev. Fr. Gauvreau. After a few congratulatory remarks by Rev. Fr. Antoine, the Prefect of Studies, the meeting adjourned.