

After the inaugural address, a discussion arose as to "what constitutes a zoological individual." Mr. STEWART, in introducing the discussion, cited the various definitions given by HUXLEY, SPENCER, and others, but held that all were deficient, leaving unprovided for such cases as the progeny of the honey bee, and the plant-lice, for in the former the generation process is limited to the queen bee and the drones, and in the latter the single fertilized ovum gives rise to thousands of beings. The opinion, based upon the theory of evolution, that a simple unicellular animal is a primitive individual, which may become differentiated and combined, merging its individuality into that of a higher organism, —a compound individual,—overrode, he thought, most of the difficulties, but was not without defects.

Mr. CRICKSHANK maintained with SCHLEIDEL that the multiplicity of applications of individuality, was principally owing to the misunderstanding, that the individual is not a conception, but the mere subjective comprehension of an actual object, presented to us under some given specific conception. HERBERT SPENCER contends that a biological individual is a concrete whole, having a structure, which enables it, when placed amidst suitable surroundings and appropriate conditions, to continuously adjust its internal relations to external ones, so as to maintain equilibrium of its functions, in other words which enables it to live; but a slip from a geranium will grow just as well, under suitable circumstances, as its parent stalk, so that a plant may according to this theory, be made up of numberless individual plants. The speaker concluded that the word *Individual* could not properly be used in a strictly biological sense. Mr. RUTTAN urged HAECKEL's definition; that there are three kinds of individuals, Morphological, Physiological, and Genealogical, as being free from all the objections urged by the other speakers. In opposition to HUXLEY's explanation, he referred to the willow, which, though it grows in all parts of Europe, yet is incapable of producing an ovum on that continent.

### THE 'RESIDENCE.'

*A propos* of the 'Grand Remonstrance,' an article, has come out in the *Saturday Review* of the 16th ult., on College Expenses. It reveals the fact that the same state of corruption, on a far larger scale, exists at Oxford as in the Residence. It must be owned, however, that at Oxford they display far greater ingenuity. The 'bed-maker,' for instance, is paid there several times. First as bed-maker proper, second, under the head of general expenses, and third as waiter in hall. To say nothing of 'three or four pounds in private donations from each undergraduate.' Again, each undergraduate gives yearly £1.17.6. for dusting carpet and cleaning windows. And if the gnawing suspicion that the bed-makers dust the carpet, even if they do not clean the windows, be true, this is another remembrance for these useful officials. Besides other charges such as those for water, furniture, etc., it appears that the unhappy undergraduate is further subject to the playful vagaries of the indispensable bed-maker, the summit of whose ambition is not reached until he 'has sold his master's corkscrew to everyone on the staircase, including the original owner.'

It would doubtless be discouraging to the pious framers of the Residence system of board to find that at Oxford they so far outstripped them in ingenuity. But allowance must be made for the difference in age in the two institutions. Give the Residence time and there is every hope, if it continues its present rate of progress, that before long its system will prove, if not as ingenious, at least as effectual as the Oxford 'battells.' I will cite one out of many instances of its encouraging development. This year some four or five rooms are unoccupied. Accordingly the board has been raised from \$12 to \$13 a month. In other words, the owners of the occupied are obliged to pay board for the unoccupied rooms! And by following out the induction we arrive at the cheerful conclusion that in proportion as the number of residents decreases the rate of board increases. This is of course the direct result of the farming system. If the Steward received a fixed salary it would make no difference to him whether the Residence was filled or not. *Fraser's Magazine*, quoted by the writer in the *Saturday Review* thus briefly sums up the whole difficulty. Speaking of the cook, it says, "He is not paid a fixed salary by the College, but he pays himself by what he can make out of the confiding and comparatively helpless undergraduates. And here, we opine, it will be his interest to supply as little for the money as he conveniently can. This he has every encouragement and every facility for doing. He stands in the position of a tradesman with a monopoly and something more besides." These remarks show exactly the position of the steward of Residence.

### A COMMITTEE APPOINTED.

The following communication was received by Mr. Armour:—

DEAR SIR:—

Concerning the petition of Resident Students, laid before the College Council on Friday last, I am directed by the Council to inform you that in reference to the matters of indifferent food and attendance, you are referred to the Dean, to whose province such affairs belong; and in reference to the matter of making the Steward a salaried official, the President, Prof. Loudon and the Dean have been appointed a Committee to report thereon.

You will lay this note before your co-petitioners.

Your obedient servant,

ALFRED BAKER, Registrar.

### INAUGURAL ADDRESS.

GENTLEMEN,—Allow me, again, to thank you for the honor you have conferred upon me, in electing me as your President for the ensuing year. Coming in as successor to one with whom I have been so long acquainted, and for whom I entertain the highest respect, not only for his talents and abilities as a scientist, but also for the direction and scope of his work, I am constrained to say—which I do without any mock modesty—that I confess my inability to do that justice to the position, which he has done. I do not accord to him a greater love of the sciences than I possess myself, for the same feelings animate all our hearts for the studies and pursuits which science opens to us. But, fortunately for your late President, his course in life has allowed him to tread the path which charms us more and more, the further we journey on; while I, leaving the beaten paths of science with regret, have now for many years been wandering along the more arid highway of legal lore, and amidst the dusty tomes and weighty precedents of bygone ages, rejoicing when, from time to time, the engrossing attentions to my life work would allow me to stray, even for a short time, into the quiet and shady retreats along the pathway so unwillingly left. Divorced so long from scientific pursuits, I crave your indulgence while occupying the chair, and I feel that you will cordially extend the same to me, and I trust that, whether in the chair or out of it, you will always find me ever ready to do my part in helping on the work of the Society. You cannot over-estimate the advantages connected with your work, and its importance has always impressed me, especially when we have around us such a vast field for exploration, not only in this Canada of ours, but in the vast continent of which we form a part; whether it be in the range of botany, geology, mineralogy, or other kindred subjects, the field is but as yet simply entered upon and rich rewards in the future await the plodding and persevering student. Original research; not diffusive, but confined to some particular branch of study, is what we want at the present day. Active workers in every department, filled with love for the work, and given to minute and critical examination, not merely laboring to make facts bear out preconceived ideas, but from facts ascertained and proved, deducing necessary and logical conclusions. Such should be our work, such *shall* be our work if in this busy age, this practical age, we understand aright the responsibilities resting upon us in the pursuit of science.

But we must not overlook the character of this present century, which, whether the term be complimentary or not, has been styled the critical age, so far as regards matters bordering on the domain of what has been called the world of Religion, but the constructive age as regards practical science, the age of pulling down as regards the belief in those grand principles embodied in the oldest of books, and the age of building up as regards the practical work just referred to. Science *versus* Religion has become the key note that sounds from the battle-field of the scientific world, forms the rallying-point around which wages the war of Speculation and Truth, and it is this fact that has led me to crave your indulgence to a few thoughts, not original on my part or presented before you in any original manner, but compiled by me during my readings in connection with the first chapter of Genesis—the book of beginnings—and the story of creation as revealed in the same. I would that the critical were changed as regards religion, in the aspect of science, into the constructive, that union, not divorce, should be the grand characteristic of the age as regards science and religion, that the glorious harmony that is revealed in the study of nature's laws and products should be more and more recognized and felt to be a mighty force, a vital principle, permeating the whole ground covered by each. It is so easy to act the part of the critic—to call attention to the faults, the inconsistencies, the want of harmony, the unreliable data, the apparent incorrectness, to take the negative side of a question, to pull down and overturn without supplying anything in its place; but it is hard to be constructive, patiently and with care, assiduously, from personal notice and examination, to add to and augment, to increase and fortify. It requires a good mechanic, and time and money, to construct a locomotive, but a tramp may destroy the whole work in a moment by obstructing the track and throwing it off the rails. If I may be pardoned, therefore, in offering a word of caution I would earnestly say, let the constructive habit, be that to be donned by us, that we be among the number of those

Slaves to no sect, who take no private road,  
But look through Nature up to Nature's God.

"In beginning,"—so runs the opening sentence of the oldest historical work in the world—meaning no time. Science takes up the refrain, and we enter on a field of investigation the magnitude of which we cannot sufficiently realize. We cut down a tree, and from the annular rings contained in the same, determine its age, so, in like manner, we dive into the inner recesses of this earth, examine its bands of rock to find its age, to find out its antiquity. We gain some information as to this head at our very doors. A short trip across Lake Ontario and we reach Charlotte, and a short sail up the Genesee river brings us to the falls of the same name. An examination of the rock, over which the mass of water is constantly tumbling, reveals the fact that it is wearing away under this constant friction at the rate of one foot in every four years. As there are 5,280 feet in a mile it necessarily follows that it takes the river to work back this distance no less a space of time than 21,120