

bate should as far as possible bear on the profession to which we aspire, and their nature should be such that profit may be derived from the discussion.

There is another objectionable feature of the last debate which should not be overlooked, as a frequent repetition of it has been injurious to the society in the past, and must inevitably be so in the future. One of the debaters failed to put in an appearance. Of course this might be unavoidable. Such might occasionally happen in the best regulated society, but as in this case no explanation whatever was given, the delinquent has left himself open to adverse criticism. To insure the success of our meetings, it is absolutely necessary that those whose names are on the programme should not fail to be present, and that they should be reasonably prepared to perform their part. The time of the students is precious. When they attend a meeting of the society, they expect to be benefited, and it is always disappointing to find some of the debaters unprepared or unnecessarily absent. The result is they become dissatisfied and absent themselves from the meetings that their time may be more profitably employed. To this we trace the comparative failure of the society in the past. It cannot be attributed to want of appreciation on the part of its members, for all admit the importance of this part of our literary training. The attendance at the meeting on December 6th was good, notwithstanding the proximity of the Xmas examinations.

Mr. H. C. Sutherland read an interesting essay on the origin of speech, and readings were given by Messrs. W. D. Reid and J. Maynard. The following gentlemen were then called on for impromptu speeches: Messrs. St. Aubin, Dempster, A. McVicar, Rondeau, Gourley, M. Maynard and A. Russell. The frequent recurrence of this feature of our programmes has also been made the subject of unfavorable criticism. The practice certainly has merit, but it should be indulged in sparingly, as usually there is very little profit to the audience. "What a speaker says without previous thought is not worth saying." (*Vide* notes on Homiletics.)

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