

The Varsity

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THE CONVERSAZIONE.

MANY are the anxious inquirers outside of the strictly university circle, who want to know every day or so whether or not there is to be a *Conversazione* this year at the University; and the only reply the undergraduate can give to the seeker after information is that he doesn't know, he cannot say. Surely it is about time now that we could say, and could speak with assurance about this important question, for the days and the weeks are creeping on apace. In about four weeks we will be leaving for home to spend the holidays, and the Michaelmas term will be a thing of the past. Before then, however, the committees which will have charge and supervision over the various departments of preparation and work in connection with this great event should be appointed by the Literary Society. The more time these committees have at their disposal, the more complete can be their preparations, and the more thoroughly can their work be accomplished. Those who have the arrangements to make for all the different features, both old and new, need to have ample time to consider and discuss the different suggestions that will be offered, and not be obliged to decide in haste, with the probable result of having their decision animadverted upon. But the main and very important purpose to be served by having the committees appointed in the near future is, that the public will then know definitely that the University intends giving again this year a repetition of the delightfully enjoyable function of a year ago. That not only those directly connected with the University, but also the people of the city not directly connected, look forward with expectant pleasure to this event, is evidenced by the crowds that attended last year, and by the constant queries ever since as to whether there will be another one next year. That such a feature as a *Conversazione* brings the University prominently before the public, and is considered one of the great social

events of the year, goes without saying. It would be of particular benefit, and especially timely this academic year, for the faculty to encourage the students and the students to aid the faculty in giving another grand reception to the public of the city and the province, throwing open wide the doors of Alma Mater, and inviting all who will to partake of her hospitality, and learn for themselves that peace and good-will have resumed their reign within her borders.

That the consent of the authorities will be obtained without difficulty is generally believed; for it was distinctly understood by the undergraduates in the fall that one of the reasons for dispensing with the time-honoured Convocation exercises was because there was to be the formal opening of the Biological Museum and *also* a *Conversazione*. It was decided, therefore, that this would be enough excitement for one year, and consequently the work of the term was commenced without the usual important introductory ceremonies. We sincerely hope that the governing bodies will extend every aid and give every encouragement to the students this winter to continue and push ahead with all preliminary preparations, and that all will unite in working harmoniously together for the common aim of making the *Conversazione* of the year 1896 one of the brightest jewels among the treasures of graduate memories, shining out the more brilliantly for its sombre background. For the present, it rests with the Literary Society to take some definite step; and it is to be hoped that the energetic executive will lose no time in coming to some decision upon the matter, but will proceed as soon as possible with the usual preliminaries, whatever they may be.

THE QUARTERLY.

It is with much pleasure that we note the appearance this week of the first number in the second volume of *The Quarterly*, which is very late in publishing though well worth the awaiting. In looking over the 86 pages contained between the modestly handsome covers, the reader is struck with the variety of topics discussed in this little magazine, embracing articles on such subjects as: *The Scottish Philosophy*, by Dr. Tracy, dealing in a brief manner with this important school of thought, with special reference to the doctrine of perception as developed in the works of Reid, Stewart, Brown and Hamilton; *Astrée*, by Prof. Squair, calling attention to that charming little seventeenth-century pastoral of 6,000 pages, which was one of the first-fruits in France of the great wave of conceited euphemistic style that invaded all the literary countries of Europe at the beginning of that century; *Some Phases of Altruria*, by R. H. Coats, being the first part of what promises to prove a most interesting review of the different attempts made from the time of Plato to the time of Bellamy to sketch the ideal state—Altruria, and, by means of this review, an indication of the evolution of men's ideals on some of the various subjects that have at all times engaged their attention; *The Development of the Science of Mineralogy*, by W. A. Parks, B.A., which is an account of the knowledge and development of this science