

essay, which bore the evident marks of hasty preparation, was listened to with great attention. It referred briefly to the legal difficulties which would arise if divorce were allowed, but treated at more length of the religious and historical aspect of the subject. The Church of Rome, the writer said, had always been consistent in its opposition to divorce, as was evidenced, for example, by its conduct in the case of Henry and Anne Boleyn. In the Eastern States of the Union, the divorce law had resulted in there being one divorce in every eleven marriages, which was a very undesirable state of affairs. Mr. Brooke, in criticising the essay, questioned very much Mr. Barnard's statistics, and in general took an opposite view of the question. He maintained that the Pope practically granted divorces, thus encroaching upon the work of our civil courts, and he laid bare the utterly illogical nature of the system of separation existing in this province. For the highest and noblest purposes of marriage, he thought divorce was a necessity. Mr. Oughtred followed, and in a brief speech defended divorce. He was sorry that the religious question had been touched by the essayist, but on common sense grounds he thought most people would agree that a divorce law was desirable. All, however, might not be agreed as to what should constitute a valid reason, but all were agreed on one cause. The speaker agreed with Mr. Brooke in thinking that Mr. Barnard's definition of marriage as a contract was wrong. Mr. Ritchie was also in favour of divorce. He disagreed with Mr. Barnard on the religious aspect of the case, and would go further than Mr. Oughtred by making incompatibility of temper sufficient cause for divorce. Mr. Kavanagh made some remarks in support of the essayist's views, but his argument had not very much logical bearing on the matter. Mr. Doherty opposed divorce. He said that the Pope did not grant divorces, but sometimes declared that there had been no marriage at all. He corroborated Mr. Barnard's statistics, and remarked, that at the late meeting of the Episcopal Church in the United States, the question was gravely discussed. He considered that divorce put the power of dissolving the marriage into the hands of the less virtuous consort, and to be logical we should either have no divorce or divorce whenever the consorts wished it. Mr. Barnard, in replying, stated that he regretted having touched upon the religious question, and that he had done so merely in an historical way. He defended separation as carried out in this province, and made a good defence of the position he had taken. We may mention that the majority of those present were in favour of a divorce law and the doing away of the present illogical system.

THE MEDICAL DINNER.

Alas! this great college event is now a thing of the past, and we must say with Locker (I think it is):

"Hoo! Boohoo!
I can't eat any more!"

It was a grand success, not merely owing to the untiring efforts of the committee, nor to the brilliant and witty speeches and their enthusiastic reception, but chiefly to the spirit of hearty good-fellowship which possessed every one present from the ordinarily awe-inspiring representatives of the Governors and the Faculty, down to the Freshman who has just grasped the delicious idea that the magic word McGill is the "open sesame" to all that is worth having in this life. One and all they seemed to feel that they were fellow-workers in a glorious cause which had for a time relaxed its apparently endless demand upon their energies and time, and that they were all off on a holiday together. Everything, except the elements, conspired to make the occasion a delightful one. The dinner proper left nothing to be desired, save one helping of "cymbe-line," while the pretty decorations, the gay music and the appropriate and well-rendered songs carried one to the prandial seventh heaven.

The chairman, Mr. R. F. Ruttan, not only fulfilled his modest claim to being a good listener, but in addition proved himself a humorous speaker. His fanciful "History of Alimentation" called forth much laughter and applause, while he fairly "brought down the house" when, in a happy combi-

nation of nursery rhymes and physiological technicalities, he alluded to the feelings of enthusiasm which he thought must have been kindled in the youthful breast of a certain well-known and deservedly popular physiologist, when, in days gone by, he listened to the clinical history of that mysterious and remarkable case of indigestion recorded of Mr. and Mrs. Jack Sprat.

The vice-chairs were occupied by Messrs. Palmer, Elder and Laflair.

The Secretary, Mr. L. D. Ross, read the usual letters of regret from His Excellency the Governor-General, Lord Lansdowne, His Excellency Lieut.-Governor Robitaille, Consul-General Stearns, the Hon. J. Church and others, the sister universities of Halifax, Harvard and Western University, and lastly, and with evident difficulty, the cause of which everybody so well understood, that his plaintive request to remember that they were letters "from Doctors" was hardly needed.

The usual opening toasts were proposed and honoured as only loyal Canadian Meds can honour them, but at old "Alma Mater," though disguised under a novel and uncanmy title, the walls rang again. After an original song had been sung by Mr. C. Wilson, '86, responses were made by the Hon. Justice Mackay in behalf of the Governors, and Professor Johnson in behalf of the Faculties. Dr. Grant, of Ottawa, in replying for the Graduates, made a most eloquent address, and the loud applause which rattled forth at certain parts of it referring to Dr. Howard showed that the Meds can appreciate well-deserved compliments applied to a favourite professor.

Dr. Howard, in proposing the novel toast of "Our Benefactors," showed most clearly that those golden individuals have hearts as open and generous as their pockets, and proved what we had suspected before, that even the hardest worked and most dignified of professors can at the right time become as light-hearted and jolly as the youngest freshman amongst us.

Mr. Thomas Workman, in replying to this toast, led us to infer that the only pleasure in life comparable to that arising from a generous gift to McGill was the privilege of listening to college songs outside your door at 10.30 p.m. Such a doubly unselfish man well typified the remarks made by the Glee Club, to fortissimo accompaniment on the piano, that they, (Our Benefactors) were "Jolly Good Fellows." We should be very loth to deny so patent a fact, after the overwhelming evidence adduced by Dr. Howard in proposing the toast. In view of the munificent donations of the Hon. Donald Smith, Mr. G. Stephen and others, and the great personal comfort and happiness which those and other gentlemen have (according to Mr. Workman, and we quite believe him), experienced, we do not doubt that that *millionnium*, which he so enthusiastically foreshadowed, will soon be a reality.

Mr. G. F. Palmer, in graceful terms and with that rare fidelity to be expected in one having so intimate an acquaintance with the subject, proposed "The Hospital."

Mr. Andrew Robertson, in replying in behalf of that patient, long-suffering institution, whose heart can never be estranged from her (occasionally naughty) children, showed that her zeal in their interest was as unflagging as ever, and announced that at last they were in a position to fulfil their mature and long-cherished schemes of improvement.

"Sister Universities," proposed by Mr. Elder, with an amount of feeling and sympathy only to be obtained from one who has personally felt the heavy hand of the oppressor, "that relentless and cruel foe of medical students the world over, the policeman!"

Mr. Spence, of Toronto University, in replying, stated that he felt as soon as he arrived that he had fallen among friends, and we know that his feelings on this point were exactly those of our representatives this year, wherever they went. Mr. Fierheller, of Trinity Medical School, in a comically gallant speech demonstrated with mathematical precision that successful efforts to secure one of the two students of the Toronto "Ladies' Medical College" as a *bona fide* delegate are at present a technical impossibility, but the grief caused by his conclusions was more than allayed by his very soothing manner of stating them. Mr. Cumberland, of the "Royal" Medical College, Kingston, taking up the same strain, said that the Kingston lady Meds