

Any item received later than that is likely to be left over for the next issue. Further, write as clearly as possible, for the sake of printers and proof-readers.

Don't be afraid to give us something that is *not* along the line of sports, gymnasium, Alma Mater, &c. These are not the only lines in which the thoughts of students are interested. Any item of news, short or long, will be gladly received, and you may count yourself a public servant if you quietly jot it down and place it in the sanctum box.

Now, if these words have the effect of making our college men feel that they must make the JOURNAL *their own*, we shall be extremely thankful. Otherwise we shall consider the advisability of removing our sanctum to Divinity Hall or the Ph.D. class, or perhaps to one of the alumni associations in Toronto or Ottawa.

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Alma Mater elections have come and gone again, this year more quietly perhaps than for many years past. Fate seemed to be against our having a good rousing old-time election this year. For one who remembers the days when carriages dashed around the city as if a parliamentary contest were on, Saturday's election seemed rather tame. One who did not know the conditions would think that the lively college spirit of by-gone days was dying out. That is hardly the case, however, though some features of the election might lead one to come to such a conclusion. The fact, *e.g.*, that the Meds. as a body refused to have anything to do with the election would indicate that their college spirit was waning. Perhaps the "At Homes" in the den, and the Æsculapian fees are found to be already a too heavy drain on their treasury. Again, it looked as though Divinity Hall were not far behind, for though they decided to nominate a vice-president in place of the Meds., a considerable number did not see fit to spent fifty cents in the interests of their candidate. Such facts savour a little of decline, but, it may be, the real cause of the quite uninteresting election is to be found elsewhere.

Mr. J. S. Shortt, M.A., when the nominee of the senior year in Arts, was almost too strong a candidate for the presidency to brook opposition. The Meds. at any rate could not find it in their hearts to attempt a contest. Perhaps this is to be explained partly by the fact that the Æsculapian Society is really taking the place of the Alma Mater for the dons of the dissecting room.

Mr. Robt. Hunter, M.A., who was the only nominee in opposition to Mr. Shortt, declined the contest on the ground that he had not been nominated by any organization or body of students. When once the presidential contest is off it is difficult to work up enthusiasm over the election for minor

offices. In addition to this the fee had been raised to fifty cents, and this seems to have sorely tried a great number. For whatever reasons, the election was a comparative failure, only about a third of the vote being polled that there has been in some years.

With all humility we suggest a few changes in the programme. First, as to the fee. A notice of motion is already before the Society to have it reduced to the old figure. That is well, but something more is necessary, and that is, that every member of the Society should pay this fee. If a man has not enough honesty or enough college spirit about him to pay this debt to his Alma Mater, some measure of compulsion should be brought to bear upon him. We suggest then that the fee be collected just as the Arts Society fee. If members wish to pay on the day of election, very good; if not, let it be fully understood that they will be required to pay the fee anyhow. The Arts Society could take this in charge for the Arts College, and the Æsculapian Society for the Medicals. If that had been understood on Saturday we should in all likelihood have had 500 voters instead of 190.

Again the arrangement for nominations from different years and faculties was rather mixed this year on account of the Medicals retiring from the field. Divinity Hall had a rather too prominent position in the contest, to judge at least from the utterances of Arts men. Now if the Medicals are going to drop out of the race in the future (which we hope will not be the case), why not let each year nominate one candidate, Science Hall and Divinity Hall one each, and let the weakest go to the wall as before. That would avoid the possibility of an indifferent nominee being appointed by acclamation in any faculty. It would avoid, too, the unpleasantness of a contest between two members of the same year or faculty. Then let there be one nomination for the vice-presidency from the senior year, one from Divinity Hall, and one from the post-graduates.

Another point worthy of notice is the practice of "plumping," which has become altogether too common of late years. The practice is essentially unfair, giving a man or a year, that is thoroughly selfish, the privilege of attending to the election of their own man without any regard to the election in general. Men who would be elected on a fair vote are sometimes snowed under by this practice. The result is unfair, not only to these individuals but to the interests of the Alma Mater.

We have all confidence, however, that our new President and Executive will at once set to work to make all desired reform.

But we can hardly close this subject without a reference to the retiring President, Mr. W. F.