

College Chronicle.

LITERARY INSTITUTE.

THE first regular meeting this term took place on Friday, Oct. 14th., Mr. Leech, B.A., in the chair. The Literary programme consisted of a reading by Mr. Cattanaach, a well-written essay on "The Brotherhood of Man," by Mr. Powell, and a debate on the following subject:—*Resolved*, "That a legislative union of the several Canadian Provinces is to be preferred to the present Federal Union." Mr. Robinson and Mr. Mayer spoke for the affirmative, but their arguments were not considered strong enough to counter-balance those of Messrs. Mockridge and Beckett for the negative, who won by a good majority.

Some twenty-five freshmen were nominated for membership and a committee was appointed, consisting of the Council assisted by Mr. DuMoulin, B.A., and Mr. Robinson, to revise the Constitution and report to a subsequent meeting for consideration.

PRESIDENT COLEMAN, B.A., presided over the second meeting on Friday, Oct. 21st, which may be called the freshmen's meeting, as on this occasion the unsophisticated young gentlemen of the first year are always introduced in large numbers, and to them is entrusted the conduct of the literary programme.

In the lulls of the noise created by a number of very non-grave and unreverend seniors, freshman after freshman might be heard articulating something of this sort:—Thank you ——— appreciation ——— honour ——— august body ——— only freshman ——— nothing to say. Mr. Davidson's reading, and Mr. DePencer's essay on "American Humor," were both very much appreciated.

The subject under debate was Sir Oliver Mowat's action in requiring Mr. Elgin Myer's resignation on account of his public expression of annexation sentiments, while holding a Crown office.

Mr. Osborne and Mr. Glyn Osler very ably upheld Mr. Mowat's action, and won the debate by a good majority, although their opponents, Messrs. Southam and Ogilvie, spoke very well (for freshmen).

A number of members joined in a lively discussion on the subject afterwards from the body of the hall, even freshmen boldly taking part—a significant sign of the times.

THIRD meeting, Oct. 28th. Mr. Jack McMurrich opened up the literary program, with an amusing reading, followed by Mr. Sanders with a cleverly sarcastic essay on "Literary Toronto," and Mr. Heward with a selection from the ever-appreciated Rudyard Kipling. In the debate which followed, Messrs. Leech, B.A., and Chappell opposed "Home Rule for Ireland," against Messrs. Robinson and Seager, the former winning by a small majority.

MR. DUMOULIN, B.A., took the chair on Nov. 4th. Mr. Spencer began the literary proceedings with an amusing reading and Mr. Carleton seconded him with an essay on "The Humorous Side of Gravestone Literature," which was good and very entertaining.

The evening's debate was:—*Resolved*, "That the expression of political views and opinions from the pulpit is to be approved." Messrs. Coleman, B.A., and Fessenden for the affirmative, Messrs. Chilcott, B.A., and Baynes Reed for the negative.

Affirmative won easily—Mr. Coleman's speech being the one of the evening. Some discussion followed from the body of the hall. A notice of motion for sundry changes in the Constitution was read; nominations received for men to represent Trinity at a debate with St. Stephen's Young

People's Association; the Council, on motion of Mr. Robinson, was requested to arrange a public debate at an early date, and Mr. Brown was elected to represent the first year on the Council, after which business the meeting adjourned.

An important meeting was that held on Friday evening, Nov. 11th, Mr. Troop, B.A., in the chair. Certain radical changes were made in the Constitution, the suggestions of the Council being approved by a large majority of those present.

The ranks of the Council were reinforced by the election (by acclamation) of Messrs. Hedley and DuMoulin to the newly-created offices of 1st and 2nd Vice-Pres.; whose most obvious duties will be to take the chair at ordinary meetings alternately with the President.

Messrs. Troop and Robinson were elected to represent Trinity in the debate at St. Stephens.

The literary programme for this evening was a reading by Mr. Butler and an essay by Mr. Mockridge entitled "A Few Words About Reading," which was very highly appreciated. In the debate Messrs. Vernon and Madill, opposed "prize-fighting" on physical and moral grounds, and overcame the arguments advanced in its favour by Messrs. Courtney and Chappell—Mr. Vernon's speech was very clear and convincing.

THE last meeting we have to record was held on Nov. 18th. Mr. Hedley occupying the chair. At an early stage of the evening's proceedings, a few gentlemen from the "Lower Western" created a diversion, by some peculiar antics which were not on the programme. Mr. Paine contributed a very amusing reading, and Mr. Davidson a good essay on Carlyle, very well delivered.

The debate was an exceptionally good one on the subject:—*Resolved*, "That modern civilization has tended to increase the happiness of the human race."

For the affirmative, Mr. Troop's rounded sentences and Mr. Robinson's philosophical arguments proved insufficient to outweigh the common-sense reasoning of Mr. DePencier, and the flowing words of that silver-tongued orator, Mr. DuMoulin, the latter winning by a narrow majority.

After the debate, a motion of Mr. Baynes Reed to the effect, that the management of the Conversazione should be taken off the shoulders of the Council of the Literary Institute and placed in the hands of a special elective committee, created great excitement.

A great deal of talking was done *pro* and *con*, and the chairman was made to realize vividly the occasional difficulties of his office. On the division being taken, however, the motion, requiring a two-thirds vote, was thrown out though favoured by a majority of those present.

The election of speakers, etc., for the public debate to be held on Dec. 2nd, then took place with following results:—Debaters—Mr. Carter Troop B.A., Mr. Robinson, Mr. Powell, Mr. Mockridge; Essayist—Mr. Carleton; Readers—Mr. Heward and Mr. Baynes Reed.

The meeting was then adjourned, having lasted almost three hours.

A CONSIDERATION of the meetings of the Literary Institute for this term, arouses very satisfactory reflections. There is a marked improvement over last year in attendance, in interest, and one is almost tempted to add, in literary programme too; the essays at least have been above the average.

For two years we have been holding meetings in one of the new lecture rooms, not an inspiring place for speaker or hearers, and the return to the old scene of many year's debates, the dining hall, is a great improvement. To this change and the fact that we have a first year of perhaps more than average mental ability, as much as to the keen interest and activity of Secretary and Council, are no doubt due this satisfactory state of affairs.