

we now have is a periodical meeting of a corporal's guard of students, a couple of whom have been attracted by true interest in the society, while the remainder have come for want of something better to do. These spend a long time in useless wrangling over some point of very minor importance, wasting the greater part of the evening with business which might have been transacted in less than one-half the time, and when the debate is called for there is a simultaneous rush for the door by those who have come merely "for fun." The consequence is that the room is all but cleared, and the debate has to be postponed "until next evening," which really amounts to a postponement *sine die*.

This is a deplorable state of affairs, and will no doubt seem astonishing to our graduates, who call to mind the Alma Mater Society in its palmy days, when the students had an eye to something beyond mere book work cram. Surely it must become apparent to every student, who will reflect for a moment, that the cultivation of his elocutionary abilities is an affair of no mean importance, no matter what may be the sphere of life which he has mapped out for himself in the future. This is so plain that we need not delay to point out reasons. We admit that students may have found very little encouragement to attend the meetings of the past few years, but we do maintain that they have no one to blame but themselves. No one has made a sustained effort to bring out the leading students in any numbers. Not more than half-a-dozen students in all can lay claim to having attended the meetings with any degree of regularity, and not even that number can claim to have made any preparations for the debates.

It remains with the students to say what is to become of the Alma Mater Society this season. It must be either sink or swim. The new President has expressed his inten-

tion, and we believe that he will do his utmost to carry out this intention, of making the society a literary and debating society in the truest sense of the term. This he can do if he receives the support of the students, not otherwise. Surely the students of Queen's are not so blind to their own interests, as well as to those of the Alma Mater, as to allow this attempt at reform to prove a failure.

THE Torontos have claimed the championship of the Central Football Association, and, not unnaturally, the *Mail* supports their claim. Before entering upon a defense of the Queen's University Club in their claim of the championship it will be well to correct what we will assume was an unintentional misrepresentation of fact on the part of the *Mail*. In its issue of Monday, Dec. 22nd, it states that the Queen's club had played but one match in the Association ties, namely, that with the Torontos. Had the editor never heard of the match between the clubs of Victoria and Queen's Universities? It is said that the Torontos have lost three afternoons and one whole day and were at the expense of travelling to Bowmanville. Against this place Queen's loss—one afternoon to play Cobourg—one whole day to play the Torontos, and the expense connected with these matches. We think it will be generally acknowledged that the trip to Toronto on the part of Queen's and the expense thereof, would be equal to the Toronto's trip to Bowmanville including expenses and say two of their afternoons. Against the remaining afternoon sacrificed by the Torontos, Queen's can place her afternoon with Victoria. How about expense in these two cases? The *Mail* does not credit the Torontos with any expenditure on their matches played in the city of Toronto and we may from that fairly infer that they were at none. How was it with