

THE MCGILL GAZETTE.

MONTREAL, SATURDAY, NOV. 16, 1878.

EDITORIAL.

IF we may assume, from the exceptional interest manifested in the recent contest for the Presidency of the University Literary Society, that graduates and under-graduates generally have awakened to a sense of their duties toward this association, we can only regard the effects of the struggle as beneficial and wholesome. Of course, much of the excitement exhibited is ephemeral—much of the interest displayed evanescent. Men attended the annual meeting, to record their votes, who in all probability will never be seen again within the Society's rooms; and so far as the election of officers is taken out of the control of the really active members of the Society, we cannot but regret the importation of an irresponsible, unthinking element into the electorate of an organization whose success depends so much upon its office-bearers. We do not desire to reflect upon one side more than upon another as regards the late election. Both candidates had their friends who canvassed energetically and good-naturedly, and the result was evidenced by the large audience present on polling night. We only wish to declare our conviction that an occasion may arise when—by the introduction of a large number of new members, who know nothing of the merits of the candidates for office, and who care little for the prosperity of the Society—an inefficient staff of officers may be chosen. It might, then, be proper to consider whether it would not be wise to limit the suffrage to members of at least one year's standing. We have not, however, the space to refer to this subject at the present time.

The Society may be congratulated upon the excellent staff of office-bearers for the present session. In the President—upon whom mainly rests the progress of the Society—the mem-

bers have a gentleman of considerable ability, and one whose record as a member proves that he takes a real interest in its affairs. The remainder of the Committee consists of representative men from the different faculties, and altogether it may be affirmed that the governing body of the Society is at once able and sagacious. And now a word as to the work of the Society during the coming winter. A proposal to institute a course of lectures has, we believe, already been laid before the Society, and will no doubt be sanctioned. But it must not be forgotten that the real object of the Society is to encourage literary and scientific pursuits among its members. A political debate is well enough now and again, but it is to be hoped that purely literary and scientific subjects will be proposed by the committee for discussion. Nor should essays be as rare a component part of the evening's programme as formerly: members who can contribute a paper should not wait to be coaxed into acceptance of an appointment, but should rather volunteer. There is but one other matter to which we would advert, and that is that we sincerely trust that those who receive cards from the Secretary notifying them of an appointment should, in the event of inability to accept, *at once* notify the proper officer. Nothing is more disagreeable than to observe three or four debaters announced as absent, as was the case at a recent meeting. In conclusion, we look for an unusually interesting session for the Society, and if the members will only attend the meetings regularly, they will soon discover that a more useful and instructive institution does not exist in McGill than the University Literary Society.

WE regret to state that, owing to the pressure of important matter, we have been obliged to leave over for our next number the report of the McGill Medical Society's meetings, as well as the list of Freshmen.