

DISTINGUISHED GRADUATES.

V. JOHN LORN McDougall, B.A. '59, M.A. '82, C.M.G.
AUDITOR-GENERAL OF CANADA.

JOHN LORN McDougall is the son of the late J. L. McDougall, formerly an officer in The Hudson Bay Co.'s service and afterwards a lumber merchant in Renfrew, Ont., and representative of the county in the Provincial Assembly. Born in Renfrew on November 6, 1838, the subject of this sketch received his primary education in the Montreal High School before coming to the University of Toronto. Here he took a brilliant course, graduating in 1859. He carried off the silver medal in modern languages and the gold medal in mathematics. In recognition of his scholarship he was made examiner in mathematics for his Alma Mater.

On his father's death he succeeded him in business, and was elected to the County Council and became Warden. In 1867 he contested the South Riding of Renfrew in the Liberal interest and sat in the first Legislature of Ontario until the general election in 1871. In 1869 he was returned by South Renfrew to the House of Commons where he sat at intervals until August 2, 1878, when he was appointed to the Auditor-Generalship by the Mackenzie Government. In this office, as is well known, his duty is to audit all accounts paid by the Federal Government and to see before passing them that they are properly covered by some of the appropriations voted by Parliament. So sturdily has he done his duty in this regard, whether friend or foe has been in office, that he has earned the title of "the real watchdog of the Treasury."

Mr. McDougall has written some able papers on finance, including one of special merit which he read before the British Association at Toronto in 1897. In the same year, in recognition of his services, he received from Her late Majesty Queen Victoria the decoration of C.M.G. Recently he has been brought before the public by his dispute with The Dominion Steel Co. over the way in which bounties are to be paid on pig iron and steel. The matter is now before the courts, and if Mr. McDougall's contention is upheld the country will be saved thousands of dollars annually. Quite recently Mr. McDougall was the guest of the Canadian Club at one of their Saturday noon dinners where he gave a most interesting account of the traps and pitfalls that are in the way of an Auditor-General.

In proof of his pious regard for his Alma Mater, Mr. McDougall has sent three sons and a daughter to the University of Toronto.

THE VARSITY joins with the undergraduate body in wishing Mr. McDougall many vigorous years in his guardianship of the Treasury.

UNIVERSITY SERMONS.

The representatives of the colleges and universities affiliated with The University of Toronto met in the main building on Saturday afternoon, Principal Caven presiding, and decided to hold a series of college Sunday services between now and the close of the academic year for students only. The first will likely be on December 7 or 14, and three will be fixed for the Easter term. They will be held at 11 o'clock, in the new Convocation Hall at Wycliffe. Negotiations are now in progress with several eminent American divines, whose services, it is hoped, will be secured. Owing to the limited accommodation the services will not be open to the general public.

She (on the beach)—When you puckered up your lips so, I thought you were going to kiss me.

He—No, I just got some sand in my mouth.

She—Oh! Swallow an acre of it, you need it in your system.

THE UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.

THE editor of THE VARSITY has invited me to give some description of the main features of the University Library. A collection of books is an intellectual tool, and its usefulness, like that of other tools, depends largely upon the right use of it. It is with the object of helping the average Undergraduate to make the best employment of the books in the Library that the following "hints to readers" are given.

Like all reference libraries, the University Library contains many volumes which are of no use whatever to the ordinary student, and which even the exceptional reader, whether Professor or Undergraduate, calls for only at rare intervals. The recesses of the stack-room are filled with the most unattractive literary *pabulum* in the shape of obscure, sometimes antiquated, scientific periodicals, or of Government reports, or of dry legal and historical documents in all the languages of Europe. There is no joy in any of these things. There is no information even, except for the specialist, whose training and knowledge enable him to arrange the new fact in his mind in relation to a host of others of the same kind previously acquired. Perhaps not more than one-tenth of all the volumes contained in the Library are, or might be, serviceable to the average Undergraduate student. The problem, therefore, for such a reader is to put himself in touch with the 7,000 or 8,000 books that, for him, constitute the University Library.

There are various means supplied to enable students to ascertain what books will be useful to them. The Calendar, for instance, contains lists of books recommended for reference and special study in connection with most departments. These lists are drawn up and revised annually by the professors and lecturers. In addition, recommendations of books are made, from time to time, in the course of each subject. It is safe to say that a student who limits his reading to the works thus prescribed or recommended will know all the books worth his while to know on the particular subject selected by him.

But the curriculum does not cover the whole field of intellectual life, and there are matters of interest in the world of to-day that are not subjects of a University examination. The Library must be capable of ministering to the intellectual needs of readers in matters outside of their work. It is for this very purpose that the long book-case, running down the middle of the reading-room, is provided. The books placed there, in close proximity to readers, as it were inviting attention and inspection, are selected from the stack-house shelves as being the most useful and suitable volumes possessed by the Library on matters *not* forming part of any course of study prescribed by the curriculum. Certain subjects forming part of the University course, such as history, are also necessarily represented on these shelves, but *not* by any text-books or reference-books mentioned in the Calendar. The books placed there are in such subjects supplementary to those specified in the Calendar. The reference shelves, moreover, contain sets of the more important English periodicals of general interest. Questions of the day—political, social, educational, as well as scientific and literary—are discussed in them, and a complete index to their contents is supplied by the English Index to Periodicals, or the American Annual Literary Index, both of which are also on the reference shelves in the reading-room.

There are some readers, however, who are not content to conduct their studies by the recommendation or selection of others, or perhaps their interest in a subject is not exhausted by the perusal of the few volumes chosen to represent that subject to them. In short, they are not ordinary readers, nor will their intellectual requirements be satisfied with anything less than the whole resources of the Library. Such readers will find their only adequate guide to the literature of a subject in the card catalogue, and in the printed biographies arranged for their behoof in the long book-case.

H. H. LANGTON.