

Last year a step was made in the right direction by holding the University dinner during the College term. Unfortunately the Undergraduate representation was not as large as was hoped for, nor did the results realize our expectations. The presence of so many Graduates rendered the unassuming Undergraduates silent and meditative, so that their feelings found vent in but two flickering songs and a couple of speeches at the end, when the guests were surfeited with oratory. Could not the Undergraduates hold a dinner in their own name? The earlier this term the better; most men apply themselves seriously to work after the holidays. The success of our medical *confrères* should encourage us to hold a dinner which will be like the *conversazione*—an event by which the year is to be known.

There seems to be a movement on the part of some Undergraduates in the direction of having the meetings of the Literary Society assume a parliamentary form. The decision of the last meeting to leave the matter to the discretion of the General Committee we judge to be a wise one. To say nothing of the lack of permanent issues, the great difficulty in the way of standing divisions, is to find men having the confidence of their fellows who are willing to assume the responsibility of leadership. An organization by which each debater is assigned a distinct part of the question, beyond which his speech is not supposed to extend, would no doubt give excellent opportunities for preparation and secure a thorough and comprehensive discussion of the subject. But spontaneity and life are most important elements in effective debating; and under such an arrangement both could not fail to be largely wanting. Moreover the plan leaves the members of the Society entirely at the mercy of a few individuals, and the experience of last year ought to demonstrate that undergraduates cannot be handled like pieces on a chess-board.

#### CONVOCAATION DAY.

CONVOCAATION day has come and gone, and, though the echoes of horns and the enlivening strains of "Old Grimes" are dying away in the distance, the memory of the day is with us still. Objection has been raised that we have had too much noise, and demands have been made for a quiet and decorous proceeding that will offend the ears of neither dame nor don.

Britons, however, and especially young ones, are apt to be recalcitrant, and, like the mountain stream, the more they are repressed and obstructed the more noise they make.

What is the object of Convocation, at any rate? It is, of course, an opportunity to present such

rewards and premiums as have been awarded to the lucky ones; but, take it all in all, it is but the grand field-day, the turn-out of the caps and gowns, a "triumphus" of education.

The happy student, arising on the morning of the fatal day, first looking at the sky to pray that ill-omened clouds may not come up to shroud and bury the burning sun, translates Horace's "Nunc est bibendum"—Now we must have a horn—and, his pockets bulged out with trumpets and cow-bells, intends to have as good a time as his lungs and the authorities will allow. And he has it.

There are extremes in everything, however, and although we can congratulate ourselves that we are quieter on such occasions than many other colleges, notably Oxford, yet the practice of shouting out personalities and interrupting the speakers is, to say the least, quite unworthy of the actors. While the long procession of robes is moving forward to the tuting of trumpets that have apparently been constructed upon some unknown principle of harmony, surely there is time enough to work off superfluous energy. But when our President and Professors speak let us listen to their words, which will certainly be a better memorial of the occasion than ruptured lungs, or a broken tympanum.

#### COLLEGE LECTURERS AS UNIVERSITY EXAMINERS.

ALTHOUGH the topic "examinations" may have but little attraction for many of our readers who may dislike to recur to those troublous times, yet a few words on the above text may not be unprofitable.

The number of men qualified to act as examiners is necessarily limited, but surely not so limited as to require the selection of College Lecturers to act as University examiners. It is most undesirable that such a system of appointing examiners should be established. If persisted in it may result in serious injury to our University.

A lecturer in the College holds, as a rule, two written examinations during the academic year. In some departments, moreover, written exercises are handed in for correction. So it is not difficult to imagine that a lecturer may become familiar with the handwriting of at least some of the students.

Again, in the examination on the modern course an oral is held in certain subjects. Of course, the examiner learns the designations of the competitors appearing before him. Now, if the examiner is also the lecturer, what protection is the designation against partiality?

In citing these particular cases, we do not for a moment wish to imply that partiality has been