

interesting fact that has yet been added to Prof. Roentgen's original discoveries, is the curious power the X Rays exhibit of discharging an electrified object. You may protect either the object or the Crooke's Tube by enclosing the one or the other in a complete metal case connected to earth—a process which would entirely shield each from the electrical influence of the other under ordinary circumstances; yet the Crooke's Tube will in a few seconds discharge the object (less easily if its charge is at first positive than if it is negative), and will in either case soon reduce it to a certain negative potential dependent on the material of which the electrified object is made. Here is a striking analogy with a well known action of violet light. I look to the developments from this point with special interest, partly because it supplies a method of studying the X Rays at once sensitive and capable of quantitative results; partly because it bears on a suggestion I ventured to make at the very beginning, that the effects were probably not due to any kind of light at all, but were electrostatic in nature and similar to those produced in certain cases by ultra-violet light.

The time has not come yet for any speculation as to the ultimate nature of X Rays; but such authorities as Dr. Oliver Lodge and Mr. Nikola Tesla have by no means yet given up the idea that both Kathode Rays and X Rays may be due to streams of particles of some kind projected through space, as may be seen in Dr. Lodge's recent survey of theories on the subject in the *Electrician*, and Mr. Tesla's still more recent utterances.

JOHN COX.

A REMINISCENCE.

An interesting incident—one we might say of all-absorbing interest at the time to the undergraduates of the Faculty of Arts—occurred some years ago at McGill. A full account of the same is contained in a very venerable and musty MS. which has come into the possession of the Editorial Board. We learn that the matter created no end of excitement at the time, and that all, without exception, of the Arts men were concerned therein. Many old McGill men, reading these lines, will remember their ancient pranks, and we have no doubt this one in particular will bring them far back again to student days under the shadow of Mount Royal.

We gather from the yellow document (very tenderly to be handled), in our possession, that one Joseph D—wh—t, then janitor of the Arts building, a good heart, and very popular with the students, bethought himself one day of changing his state and manner of life, and of taking to himself a wife, which indeed he did in due course; and thereupon the stu-

dents assembled on a memorable occasion, and presented him with the under address with all due solemnity. The address itself was drawn up by a now well known member of the junior bar of this city.

ADDRESS.

MR. JOSEPH D—WH—T.

SIR :—

It has come to the knowledge of the students of the Faculty of Arts, that you, Joseph D—wh—t, for some time honorably connected with McGill College, having for some time exhibited unmistakable symptoms, have at length publicly avowed your purpose of entering into matrimony.

I, having received authority from the students, assembled in full conclave, do hereby declare that your intention is highly creditable both to yourself and the institution with which you are connected. Such an intention is both innocent and laudable, and has given us all a higher opinion of your enterprising spirit and heroic fortitude of soul.

You will, now, having experienced the dubious joys of single life, enter for the first time upon the unalloyed pleasures of lawful wedlock. This is right and proper. Your multifarious duties have given you opportunities of observing the fair sex, you know their amiabilities, you have studied their weaknesses; you do not, therefore, undertake this enterprise with your eyes shut. Permit me to remind you that you are entering upon a new and untried course of life. It is a knowledge of this fact that has induced us to come forward to encourage you with cheering words. Moreover, a deep appreciation of your genial temper, unflagging industry, high spirit, and moral rectitude, as well as a sense of our obligation to you for your kind attention in the past leads us to beg you to accept this slight token of the esteem in which you are held by every student in Arts.

(Here the Slight Token was duly presented.)

Several changes in your habits of life will now be in order. Your means should less lavishly be used for purposes of personal adornment, while a considerable amount must be expended upon the object of your tender passion. You will realize this more fully later on. Increased gravity also is becoming to the brow of a married man, though unsuited to the unadorned temples of the bachelor.

At night instead of retiring to your lonely chamber, instead of seeking the society of friends, or the haunts of worldly frivolity, you will retire to the sacred precincts of the domestic circle, whose heart-soothing joys will render you oblivious to the vexations of life, the enmity of foes, and the deceitfulness of friends. And should your household cares in the progress of time become increased, as is not unlikely, and should your offspring arise like young olive branches, surrounding