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COLLEGE TOPICS



Devoted to the interests of the Students in the Universities and Colleges of Toronto.

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MCGILL VS. VARSITY.
ANNUAL DEBATE IN CONSERVATORY HALL FRIDAY EVENING—THE PROGRAMME.

Once in two years the members of the Varsity Literary Society and their friends have the pleasure of hearing the annual debate between the representatives of McGill and of old Varsity. Only twice in his undergraduate course does the student, if he meet with no accidents, have this pleasure, and it is natural that he should look upon it as one, out of the multiplicity of college functions, which must not be missed.

This year the debate takes place in Toronto, and although the custom has been to hold it in Association Hall the Literary Society Executive has, for reasons of its own, decided on this occasion to make a change. The hall in the Conservatory of Music building on the corner of College Street and University Avenue has been secured for the purpose. This hall, which is large and splendidly fitted up, is admirably suited for an occasion of this kind, while its acoustic properties are of the best.

Professor Wrong has kindly consented to occupy the chair for the evening, and his name is sufficient guarantee that that part of the programme at least will be satisfactorily performed. It is unnecessary to say that the two men to whose lot it has fallen this year to uphold the honor and reputation of their Alma Mater, are undoubtedly as strong as any who could have been chosen. John G. Inkster's Gaelic accent is as well-known as it is popular amongst Varsity students, while Hugh Munroe, although he seldom favors the public with his eloquence, is known to be an able and fluent speaker. The musical part of the programme will be furnished by Mr. A. E. T. Jackson and by Walter A. Sadler, the Glee Club's pianist. On the Glee Club tour Mr. Jackson's solos were most enthusiastically encoored in every place visited, and those who attend the debate on Friday evening next may expect, and will certainly receive, a treat.

Mr. J. T. Shotwell is the essayist, and Mr. N. E. Hinch will give a reading. The programmes are already out and may be secured at the janitor's office, Varsity.

NOVELS: THEIR ORIGIN AND USE
Interesting Lecture by Prof. Alexander in Students' Union
GROWTH OF ENGLISH NOVEL
Causes Which Make It so Popular—Its Difference Compared with the Drama and the Story

The largest audience which has been in Students' Union in a long time assembled Saturday afternoon to attend Professor Alexander's lecture on "Novels: their Origin and Use."

Professor Alexander opened his lecture with a few remarks on the wide acquaintance of the novel in the reading world and its increasing popularity with all classes of readers. He then entered upon the lecture proper. He said:

Novels, which form so large a part of the present output of books and which afford almost the sole literary pabulum of a large number of readers were, in the strict sense in which the word is employed, unknown in English literature two hundred years ago. There existed, to be sure, something called novels, but the origin of what we regard as the "novel proper," is very recent as compared with the birth of the other great divisions of imaginative literature—the story, the epic, the drama, the song. It may be interesting to inquire why this is so; why a form which is so popular, so adapted to gratify an almost universal taste, which when originated, developed with such extraordinary rapidity all over the western world, is the latest of the great literary species to come into existence.

Now, though all novels are stories, all stories are not novels.

We may roughly define a novel as an "imaginative prose narrative," and such a definition will serve to exclude all other forms of literature except the prose story.

How is the novel proper distinguished from stories that are not novels? For fairy stories, the "Arabian Nights," Gulliver's Travels, the "Pilgrim's Progress" Kipling's "Plain Tales from the Hills" are not novels, yet having a close resemblance they would be included in the preliminary definition which we have given. How are we to distinguish? In the first place, a novel must be a story whose prime object lies in the fact that it is a story;—that it gives pleasure as such. This object must not be secondary to some other purpose, as in "Gulliver's Travels" and the "Pilgrim's Progress" in which the aims are respectively to satirize society, and to embody religious truth. This distinction is sufficiently apparent. It will be observed, however, that this ulterior purpose beyond the story may be present in different degrees, and may exist in what might properly be termed a novel for example in "Little Dorrit." But in the typical novel this practical or didactic purpose is subordinate, and in the ideal novel is altogether absent. In as far as the writer has some other aim than that of telling a story, and of giving pleasure, whether it be to inculcate views on social or religious questions; to reform institutions; to teach a moral lesson,—in so far does the novel depart from this type. It may still be a novel because of the subordination of these aims to the main one of telling a story.

Wherein does the latter differ from the former? I suppose the most obvious point of dissimilarity is the length. A story may be, and usually is, short; a novel must be of some considerable length.

I think we are able to define with some exactness the novel proper. A novel is an imaginative prose narrative, which aims at presenting, through a plot and characterization, a picture of actual human life.

In English literature the first marked change upon the earlier story of adventure, are the so-called novels of Elizabethan times. But these do not attempt to represent life as it actually is. The title of the most famous of them, Sir Philip Sidney's "Arcadia" indicates, what is generally true, that they are laid in an unreal and fanciful scene and surroundings, "where they fleet the time carelessly as they did in the golden world."

Of this character were the writings of the best known novelists of that time. "Rosalynd or Euphues' Golden Legacy," where Shakespeare, found the story of "As You Like It," is an example, and "Pandosto or The Triumph of Time," upon which "Winter's Tale" is based, is another.

Somewhat later, we may note a school of prose fiction which did not however differ fundamentally from that of Elizabethan times. It flourished in the latter part of the seventeenth century and was mainly translated or mis-stated from the French. One of these romances would fill ten or twelve volumes, and they unfolded in endless succession the utterly unreal and improbable adven-

(Continued on 4th page.)

TORONTO UNIVERSITY—MEDICAL FACULTY.

An interesting meeting of the Medical Society was held last Friday afternoon in the west wing of the Biological Building, Queen's Park.

Mr. Lindsay, president of the society, was in the chair. Having called order, suggestions were asked by him from the members. J. D. Webster advocated the changing of the term treasurer to hon. treasurer and 1st and 2nd treasurer to treasurer and 1st assistant treasurer respectively. This was carried. This motion was quite in order and causes an improvement in the constitution of the society.

The remaining time was wholly taken up in the nominating of candidates for office for the term 1898-9.

The list of nominations is:—
President, Messrs. Tanner, Holmes, McLeah; vice president, Messrs. Martindale, Dunnington, Hutchison; hon. treasurer, Dr. Dwyer, acclamation; recording secretary, S. W. Smith (not Stubbs), acclamation; treasurer, Messrs. Peters, McDougall; assistant treasurer, Messrs. Pirie, Christie, Costes, Smith; curator, Messrs. Downing, Montgomery, Carder, McKinnon, Lathan, Ditttrick, Blanchard; and the rest of the second year; councillors from 1st year, Messrs. Warren, Steele, Moak, Gordon, Campbell.

A brief resume of the above candidates is as follows:

A. W. Tanner, otherwise known as "Tan," by familiars as "Tannie," and by common people as "Good-day, Sir." He was born in the County Cork, Dublin, and emigrated to Ottawa early in this century. There he soon made himself agreeable to the parliamentarians, and his best friends are numbered among the members who annually visit the great public buildings there to represent the people. Sometime ago "Tannie" gathered together his effects and marched to Toronto, where he now is.

A more genial, haphazard, open-hearted, generous fellow than "Tannie" cannot be found anywhere, and he would make a good president for the Medical Society. His platform is simple. He advocates that no person shall be allowed to pay his Medical Society fees unless he furnish proof of good moral character. The moon last night was carefully examined with a pathological microscope, and it was found that the auguries are good for "Tannie."

C. U. Holmes, alias Cecil, by cronies is called "Cece." It is not known where "Cece" was born, but all at once it appears he appeared in Selkirk and then moved to Toronto, where he is now chinking bones and boning chink. He has so many excellent qualities, that it is next to impossible to put them before the public. However, it is a thing assured, that "Cece" is all right, that he is going to get there with both feet and that everybody that knows him will vote for him. Those who don't know him had better look out, for "Cece" comes from out west and carries bowie knives in his boots and hoss pistols in his sleeve. It has already been discovered by an astronomical investigation of the stars (and stripes) that he is bound to win.

L. McLeah, alias Mac, is known to chummies as "Frizzly," and to best friends as "Friz." "Friz" is a big, blue-eyed Irishman, and a better hearted fellow never stepped into the University of Toronto Medical Faculty. Bigger feet than his never stepped upon a tender corn. "Friz" came to this country at the time of the Fenian raid and has been here ever since. He never had an office, "Friz" hadn't, and this speaks well for his modesty and retiring disposition. Looking through the telescope some months ago some water was seen to spill from the dipper, and this sugars well for "Friz."

O. J. Martindale, known as "Martie," will need no recommendation. Everybody knows him and likes him.

W. H. Dunnington—"Dunnie" alias "Eddie Blake"—is a good man and true. No better man could be thought of. He is bound to win.

N. S. Hutchison—alias "Hutch"—is an amateur actor of no mean ability and will commend himself to all. He, too, is bound to win.

J. H. Peters, better known as "Joie," to familiars as "Joey," to best friends as "Little Joe."

"Little Joe" is well adapted to handle the cash of the Medical Society.

A. J. G. McDougall, alias "Mac," alias "Glen," alias "McDoodles," known to cronies as "Doodles the cartoonist."

He would make an excellent treasurer, as he has had a wide experience in financing. Even now, it is said, he takes up the collections in three churches. His popularity also will be with him election day. All the other men are good men and representative medcs. It would certainly be a difficult task to pick the winners before the votes are counted. Suffice it to say, the nominees are a good line and the winners will work hard next year to keep alive the interest in the society.