

—not outsiders—but one another. Of late years, in place of being a reception it has taken on much more the nature of an "At-home," and we have enough of these without converting the reception into one. This brings us to the lively question of the advisability—or inadvisability—of curtailing the number of At-homes and other social gatherings, which seems to be increasing as the years go by. Last year, however, the Freshman class, we believe, took a step in the right direction when they decided not to have a formal At-Home, but in its place held a very pleasant and informal social gathering, at which none but members of the year attended. At the year At-homes the members do not meet one another, and yet professedly this is the object of giving them. We have known students of both sexes who have gone to every At-home which their Year gave, and yet never met one another until the last meeting of their final year, when an informal social farewell was held. Would it not have been better to have had such an informal meeting in the first year as '09 did than leave it to the last year when the class is about to separate? Why should a Freshman year hold a formal At-home? We can see no occasion for such a function. The Freshmen's reception is specially for their benefit, and if it does not fulfil its purpose, the remedy is not by adding another function but by changing it, so that it will fulfil its purpose.

INTERCOLLEGIATE Y.M.C.A.

REPRESENTATIVES of the Y. M.C.A.'s of Toronto University, McGill and Queen's held a conference on association work in Strathcona

Hall, Montreal, on Saturday and Sunday, Nov. 10-11.

The morning session on Saturday was given up to the discussion of Bible study work. Reports were given from the various colleges showing prosperity along every line. It was the unanimous opinion of all representatives that the Y.M.C.A. can exert the most effective influence for good in college life by promoting systematic Bible study among the students, and that therefore to this department each association should contribute its best efforts.

The evening session was devoted to the consideration of the work the associations are doing outside the circle of student life. Reports were received from the various colleges regarding the branch of outside work in which each is specially interested. Queen's reported on the work her missionary society is doing in manning new mission fields in Western Canada and New Ontario; Toronto on her city missions; McGill on her work done in the foreign field, especially in Ceylon. An interesting item brought out in the discussion was the fact that McGill is planning what is a new enterprise for Canadian colleges—the undertaking of a form of settlement work in one of the poorer quarters of the city.

On Sunday morning, an hour before church service was given over to a meeting of a devotional character. In the afternoon a mass meeting of students was addressed by Mr. George Irving, secretary for Canadian colleges, on the Temptations of Student Life. It is a matter of regret that Mr. Irving is compelled to withdraw from association work for a time. In his sound common-sense, his enthusi-