

reduction affect Queen's? It has been hurtful. We go into the finals without having kicked a ball in a championship match, to play a team grown confident by a long series of victories. Want of practice was shown to an alarming extent in the match with Trinity last week. The old time dash was wanting. At Ottawa, too, on Saturday, it was condition that told, rather than any superiority of skill or science on the part of our opponents.

The question to answer now is—Can we win the championship handicapped as we have been? Yes, but it means work. Every man of last year's team should come out. We have material here that any club might envy. The championship is ours if we only say so; but the "saying so" must be loud and vigorous during the next two weeks in the daily practice of the best men in College. If not, good-bye championship!

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In past years our sports were annual events having little or no connection with one another. Each year brought on a new contest in which the aim of the competitors was simply to surpass other competitors, no matter how small the margin, and thus win the prize or obtain a sufficient number of points to secure the championship of the College for the year. In this way comparative excellence was substituted for absolute excellence, as a standard, and the natural result was that we seldom had good records made, and when made they were soon forgotten. To remedy this state of affairs the Alma Mater Society, a few weeks ago, passed a motion providing for a special book in which are to be entered each year the records made in the several events. The full effects of such a register will not be seen immediately, but there is no doubt that in a few years the honour of holding one or more College records will be esteemed as highly as the winning of the "all round" championship.

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The Freshmen's Reception seems now to have become as essential a part of college life as are the regular daily lectures or the ancient and venerable *Concursus Iniquitatis et Virtutis*. And it is well that this is so. Such an initiatory process is indicative of the spirit that pervades Queen's, and therefore forms a fitting introduction to her college halls. As one freshman remarked, "It must be a much more agreeable welcome than the hazing elsewhere encouraged and practised."

Granting the capabilities for good of such an institution, our next question must be as to how far these capabilities are developed and realized in the gatherings from year to year. The Executive of last session certainly took a step in the right direction when they decided to lessen the number of invitations and avoid the confusion and crush, in which

the real guests of the evening were almost unavoidably ignored. But as often happens, the first effort at correcting the defect resulted only in an opposite extreme, and it needed a year's experience to show us that, while the freshmen could not be comfortably entertained by the combined assistance of all the citizens of Kingston, on the other hand there was required the presence of more ladies than are to be found in the circle of Queen's immediate supporters and teaching staff. The appreciation of this truth by the Executive Committee led to a well balanced gathering on the 19th inst., and in this respect perfection has been almost, if not quite attained.

It has been remarked by some that the vast majority of our city families, who so kindly invite us to their homes and social gatherings from year to year, have been ungenerously ignored in consequence of the change just mentioned. We are sure that none of our city friends will entertain for a moment any such idea. All that is required to dissipate such an impression is to remember the purpose for which the entertainment is given. It is not intended as an expression of gratitude to city friends for that unstinted hospitality which makes Kingston stand unique among university cities; this aim is rather the *raison d'être* of our annual *Conversazione*. The Freshmen's Reception is simply the outcome of a desire to welcome the Freshmen to our Alma Mater—to make them feel at home in our midst, and to impress them with the spirit of true christian fellowship, that pervades our university and that is fostered and developed by the societies under whose auspices the reception is held—the Young Men's and Young Women's Christian Associations of Queen's.

And when we thus understand the scope and aim of this annual gathering, we are in a position to deal with the phase of the question that affects each of us most as students, viz., our individual duty toward this important event. In the first place it merits our support and presence; it also imposes on us the duty of endeavoring to entertain our guests rather than to be ourselves entertained. In these respects the last reception certainly reached a very high standard of excellence. We can scarcely hope that a time will come when there will not be some students who will absent themselves entirely; a time when some will not search out members of the Reception Committee and censure them for not exerting themselves more strenuously to do what all, other than Freshmen, should consider as their own special duty—a time when some will not form themselves into little groups or gather at the rear end of the hall to view with contempt or ridicule the work in which others engage, or the blunders which the uninitiated occasionally commit.