

us to expect, we have determined to publish the *Gazette* once a fortnight instead of only once a month as during the past year. The advantages of this are too obvious to mention. The size of our pages, as our readers will perceive, has been somewhat diminished but not their number. Other improvements, too, will be noticed. All this means, of course, so much more expense, and so much more work for the Editors, and it is earnestly to be hoped that every reader who can possibly do so will write something for us, and try to diminish to the utmost of his ability, the burden of our editorial work. We can scarcely hope to escape the commission of many faults before we shall finally lay down the pen next May, but we rely for encouragement upon the expectation that our readers will freely extend to us their indulgence.

In another column will be found a report of the doings of the Undergraduates' Literary Society during this session. It is encouraging to note that these early meetings have been well attended. Hitherto the students as a body have rather neglected this society, although strenuous efforts have been made to offer an attractive programme at every meeting. We hope that this year the students, and more especially the younger students, will wake up to the important advantages which they may derive from attending the meetings and taking part in the exercises of this association. We question if any of the various courses in the curriculum of McGill offers such a combination of mental training with practical advantage. The present fourth year students, to whom much credit is due for the manner in which they have always supported this society, can attest the benefits they have derived from it. As it is composed entirely of students, new members do not find themselves much behind the oldest in their power of expressing their thoughts, while the remembrance of their own still recent experiences as beginners makes the older members very indulgent to even the crudest efforts of new ones. Owing to these circumstances the "Freshman" or "Sophomore" is deprived of the excuse which he usually advances to shield his own laziness, namely, that he feels diffident about attempting to speak before others much more capable than himself. If such false modesty clings to him after he leaves college, his chances of success in life will be small. But this excuse is really so shallow and has been advanced so often that it is now quite worn out. However, while blaming the junior students for the little interest they take in the Literary Society, we must not forget to urge upon its officials the necessity of using every effort to make the programmes successful. It is true that in the past, when this has not been the case, the fault did not rest with the officers, but rather with the members who have occasionally been unwilling to go to the labour of preparing a speech or writing an essay. When this has happened, we say the members have forgotten the objects which they sought to attain in joining the society. Like the "Freshman" and "Sophomore" they have at these times sheltered themselves behind a flimsy excuse. They have alleged want of time as the reason why they have neglected the duties they took upon themselves on becoming members. It is one of the pet foibles of students to fancy themselves overworked. Overworked! why there are not a dozen students in the Arts Faculty who do not spend more time in idling than they do in study. The day surely is come, if it ever is to come, when the McGill student can afford to throw aside this delusion which he has so long hugged to his soul in undisturbed complacency. There is

work for students in McGill, as much work perhaps as is wholesome for them, but no more. They have ample leisure, yet for years they and their predecessors have been industriously employed in creating the impression that their burden is more than they can bear, it is time, we say, that this should be put an end to. It is unworthy of us. Let any student, who has beguiled himself into the belief that he has no spare time, sit down and reflect over the number of hours he has spent in study while at college; and, if he be honest, he will never again put forward the plea of overwork. Since the student has so much leisure then, is it too much to ask that he should devote some of it to his own and his fellows' culture by assisting in the carrying out of the Literary Society's programmes? We think not.

A question not without interest to University students has of late been earnestly discussed in certain educational circles in this province. We refer to the stand taken by the professional bodies with reference to the qualification of students for entrance to the study of the different professions. Our readers all know that, in order to enter upon the study of medicine or law, it is necessary to pass an examination conducted by members of these professions, the examinations not being of a technical nature, but entirely literary or general. With the character of these examinations, indeed, most of us are acquainted by report, if not by sad experience. Not upon one occasion only has a gold medallist of this University had to bow his head before gentlemen learned in the law; and the medical students, if we are to judge from the results of a late examination in Quebec, in which nineteen candidates out of sixty-seven were successful, have probably no very sweet recollections of these ordeals. These preliminary examinations are very general and very mixed, and, of late years at all events, sufficiently fair for an average schoolboy. It is true that occasionally a question in philosophy will creep in, which, to be answered properly, would require no mean metaphysical powers; while in the same examination, the student's knowledge of arithmetic would probably be tested by a sum not much more difficult than simple addition. That the Bar and other professional bodies have a perfect right to determine in what way students shall be admitted to the study and practice of these professions, no one will deny. If these gentlemen choose to exact a thorough knowledge of Chinese and the higher mathematics, they are at liberty to do so as at present constituted; but in such a case we should advise them, just for the sake of consistency and uniformity, not to examine the candidates at the same time in the English alphabet. We are told that the professions referred to are becoming rapidly overcrowded, and that for the sake of all concerned, it is wise to make admittance to them more difficult. We quite agree with the contention that all possible means ought to be taken to keep out incompetent men, of whom, perhaps, there are already too many in these professions; and we consider that the tests applied at present might be made more stringent without any harm. So far these examining bodies will find cordial supporters in intelligent people who have thought at all of the subject. But what the highest Protestant educational institutions in this province have protested against, and what they continue to protest against, is the monstrous anomaly which exists in the assumption, by professional bodies, of functions which most manifestly belong to educational institutions. As we have just said, these bodies have