

## THE GYMNASIUM.

In another column will be found a notice of the Wicksteed Medals competitions, with a list of entries. These medals we all know are offered, not to competing clubs, but for excellence in gymnastic skill. McGill has always been famed for its sporting tastes, and the GAZETTE as the organ of the students is seldom without its sporting item or editorial. But while football, hockey and tennis have always forced themselves into notice, there is a no less important athletic department which might be called the silent sister of these: we mean the Gymnasium. The campus and the rink are splendid training grounds, but there is one class of students they cannot reach, namely, that comprising weakly or very studious men. The fascinations of hockey and football are hard to resist: they are mistresses who demand our whole attention. Further, they require of their lovers no small amount of physical strength at the outset. The Gymnasium, on the contrary, can be attended profitably and with pleasure by the weakest, and demands but little of his time so that there is no excuse for not attending it.

That it is advantageous to exercise the body needs no argument. If there is not sound health, or at least a strong constitution, it is vain to attempt to win success in any sphere of life, or if success be won it is far less than might have been. How differently Carlyle might have looked on his fellow-men if he had not been dyspeptic. His harsh invectives, penned in harsher and involved language, might have become softened if he had not had that continual gnawing at his vitals. Pope's little lapses of memory as regards contemporary merit, his satires upon his dearest friends, even his hypochondriacal envy may all be explained by the one word "sickness." On the other hand consider Dickens' works, and you will find no harshness there. He was a man who timed his work and walk, and was exceptionally healthy. So with Bryant, who used to walk some miles to his office every day, and often indulged in gymnastic exercise when there; we find no hate in his verses even if, as Miss Cleveland says, they are only readable by a fire-side, so chilly they are.

To those students who are not able or inclined to indulge in the rougher sports we say: By all means put in some hours a week at the gymnasium, and you will find your mind clearer and your bodies stronger by the work.

## THE DINNER QUESTION.

Perhaps the most important question that meets the students as a whole is this one of an Annual Din-

ner. The evening of the "dinner" is almost the only time devoted entirely to social intercourse, at least among the more studious. This, coupled with the desirability of abundant intercourse outside of the class-room, has hitherto given a fair amount of success to these gatherings. In view of the success of the dinners of the past, it would not be amiss to notice, before the session closes, some improvements that are called for, not merely by reason of the development of the custom itself, but also on account of various changes that have lately taken place in the college. In order to the better understanding of the position that is occupied by the dinner, the past may profitably be examined; and, as an example, take the history of the Arts dinners. In the early years, after the custom of an annual dinner was instituted, each class held its own. This was found to be unsatisfactory for several reasons. In the first place, the gathering was but small, and composed of men who met one another every day; moreover, on account of the small number of tickets, the rates were high and the entertainment on a humbler scale than is now the case. Three years ago, these reasons led to the trial of a Faculty Dinner; and the first was a great success. This year the Governors and Professors of the Faculty were also present; and this new departure likewise was very successful. Such, with various modifications, has been the history of the custom in the other Faculties. The history of them all shows a gradual and steady increase in size and importance. Now it is to be decided whether the custom has fully developed, or has yet higher stages to reach. We would say that nothing points to its having reached a maximum point of importance, but rather that there are many reasons why the Annual Dinner should be still more extensively patronized, and of a more general character. As the first gatherings were class dinners, and as these increased to Faculty dinners, and these to Faculty dinners with both students and professors present, so the next step is to a University dinner. Then, indeed, would the McGill dinners be an event of some considerable importance. A University dinner would more properly be called a banquet, inasmuch as ladies would be present; for, in addition to the large number of the other sex now enrolled as students, and who may justly claim a part in a University gathering, we must consider the wives of the Governors, Professors, and older graduates. The University Dinner, as the very name implies, would gather together the Chancellor and Governors, and their ladies, the Principal and professors of the various Faculties and their ladies, the graduates and their ladies, and the undergraduates and students. Such a scheme—perfectly