

A special meeting of this Society was held on Monday, November 12th, to consider the question of sending a representative to the annual dinner of the Literary Society of Trinity College, Toronto.

It was moved by Mr. Wallace, seconded by H. Young: "That we do not send a representative to this dinner." Moved in amendment by Mr. Sutherland, and seconded by Mr. E. E. Howard: "That as Mr. S. Graham has offered to go to Trinity College, paying one-half of his expenses himself, he be our representative."

The amendment was carried, the meeting then adjourned.

CLASSICAL CLUB.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the McGill Classical Club was held in the Classical Seminary room of the Library, Wednesday, November 14th, President Mackintosh presiding.

The committee had prepared an excellent programme, of which a pleasant feature was an essay on the Roman Theatres, by Mr. Ferguson, Arts '96.

Mr. A. C. Howard, Arts '97, then read a selection from Terrence with great feeling and expression.

The third and last item was the translation of Act III of Phormio. The following gentlemen took part: Mr. Mackintosh '95, Mr. W. G. Cole '96, Mr. Heine '98, Mr. D. W. Munn '98, Mr. A. C. P. Howard '97, Mr. H. Mackay '97, Mr. A. Ross '97, Mr. J. G. Saxe '97.

The strong reaction of an English motion of adjournment after such classic reading "knocked up" the members to such a degree, that it was some time before they were prepared to battle with such non-classical subjects as common "*windus rainaque*."

MCGILL MINING SOCIETY.

The regular fortnightly meeting of the McGill Mining Society was held in the old Science building, on Friday, November 9th. President Carlyle in the chair. The minutes of the previous meeting were read and adopted.

Mr. Whitehead moved, seconded by Mr. Hart, that the secretary correspond with the secretary of the General Mining Association of the Province of Quebec, and learn if they would propose some terms by which our Society could become affiliated with theirs.

The first part of the evening was taken up by Mr. Van Barneveld, who read a very instructive paper on Notes on the Vale Section of the Pictou Coal Fields.

The remainder of the evening was occupied by Mr. Mussen, Sc. '96, who read a very interesting and

instructive paper on Life in the Laurentian Seas. After some discussion on the papers by the President, Messrs. Whiteside, Hart and others, the meeting adjourned.

MEDICAL SOCIETY.

Since the last issue of THE FORTNIGHTLY, the Medical Society has held two meetings. The first meeting on Nov. 3rd was purely business, and the principal matter was the election of Arthur Gunn to fill the president's office, lately vacated by A. Cruikshanks.

The second meeting, Saturday, 17th inst., was the greatest success of the season, owing to the fact that James Stewart, M.D., had consented to lecture on the interesting subject of Hypnotism. At 8 o'clock p. m., when Dr. Stewart made his appearance, the largest lecture theatre in the building was packed to overflowing with professors and students from all Faculties and many outsiders who were attracted by the announcement of the subject. Doctor Stewart treated the subject in an exhaustive manner, but regretted that he was unable to procure a suitable subject for demonstration.

He began, after the applause had ceased, by explaining the mechanism of the little instrument (Sarco's) which he uses for this work. It consists principally of a small, bright, metallic ball, which is so supported from the head of the patient that it hangs about 3 inches in front of and about 2 inches above the eyes. The patient gazes steadfastly upon this bright ball, and in a few seconds, or minutes at most, he succumbs to the effects, and slumbers. The explanation of this phenomenon, according to Heidenhain, consists in the tiring of the nerves, which secondarily affects the cortex of the cerebrum in such a manner as to inhibit the functions of the governing centres. Not only will this gazing on a bright object produce the hypnotic effects, but fright, ringing of gongs and bells, etc., may produce them.

The different stages of Hypnotism according to degrees of profoundness are:—

- 1st. Drowsiness, either slight or deep.
- 2nd. Cataleptic; characterized by a sleepy feeling and the tendency of limbs to remain in any position in which they are placed.
- 3rd. Automatic obedience; in which patient will comply with any suggestions.
- 4th. Anaesthetic; all sensation to pain is lost.
- 5th. Somnambule; slight or deep. When patient awakes, after having passed through these last two stages, he does not remember his actions. Slight operations can be performed in these stages.

Sarco, the great French specialist, has noticed that of 1000 persons he could not hypnotize 37. He