

THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published on Saturdays in the University of Toronto, by THE VARSITY Publishing Company, in 21 weekly numbers during the academic year.

The Annual Subscription price is \$1.00 a year, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions and items of College News should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

The Office of THE VARSITY is at No. 4, King Street East, Room 10 (up-stairs).

OUR CHRISTMAS NUMBER.

The present number of THE VARSITY is the last regular issue for the present term. It contains eight columns of reading matter more than in our regular issues. The special Christmas number of THE VARSITY will appear on or about the 20th of the month, and will, as usual, contain a large amount of original literary matter, furnished by new and old contributors, and it is expected that a special engraving of the University door will also be found on the first page. Undergraduate subscribers leaving town for the vacation can have their copies sent to them if they will leave their names and addresses on the list now placed in the janitor's room. The price of the special number will be five cents a copy. Copies of the engraving (6" x 6") of the University door, printed on heavy plate paper, may also be obtained separately, upon application to the Business Manager. The price will be 25 cents post-paid to any address, and the picture will make a handsome souvenir for the holiday season, suitable for framing. Orders should be sent in at once.

CLASS ORGANIZATION.

The movement in favour of permanent Class Organization is rapidly gaining in public estimation among the undergraduates, and has taken practical shape among the Second and Fourth Year men. Both years have held mass meetings and have assented to the principle, only waiting for the necessary information in order to organize upon a permanent basis. THE VARSITY is delighted to note these cheering results, and hopes soon to chronicle the fact that the First and Third Years have followed the excellent examples now before them. We are convinced that these Class Societies will permanently benefit and strengthen the University, and will do more than anything else to keep alive a practical *esprit de corps*, of which in the past we have heard so much and seen so little. Gentlemen of the First and Third Years, let us hear from you on the subject.

WORTHY OF IMITATION.

Too often it has been the unpleasant duty of THE VARSITY to be compelled to speak about the apathy of the alumni of the Provincial University. It is pleasing to be able to record instances of individual generosity and munificence, especially among the younger graduates. In establishing the "Cawthorne Medal" Mr. Frank T. Shutt, M.A., of Ottawa, has set an example which is worthy of imitation. Himself a graduate of less than five years' standing, he has enrolled his name already among the benefactors of the university, and by his act has shown himself a worthy son of his *Alma Mater* and has manifested a practical interest in her welfare worthy of all commendation.

The "Cawthorne Medal" is strictly a University College prize, being awarded annually through the Natural Science Association. It is open to Fourth Year students in any of

the three sub-departments of the Honour Natural Sciences course, who are members of the N. S. Association. The examining committee, composed usually of the Professors in Natural Science Department, are appointed by the society. They award the medal to the candidate who sends in before the 1st of March of each year the best original thesis on some scientific work.

The purpose of this medal, then, is to encourage original, and not mere class work, for examination purposes. The object which the donor of this medal has had in view in establishing it is to offer some inducement to independent work in the Natural Sciences, no provision as yet having been made for post-graduate courses therein. It is at once an evidence of his love for his College, and of his desire to encourage others in the study of subjects which formed his own course during his university career.

EXAMINATIONS.

We direct the attention of our readers to the opening pages of the November number of the *Nineteenth Century*. There will be found a remarkable and weighty "signed protest against the sacrifice of education to examination," and also articles on the subject, in the same strain, from Prof. Max Muller, Edward A. Freeman and Frederic Harrison. The Protest is a vigorous one, and from the facts alleged, as also by reason of the strong and distinguished support it receives, must command attention and consideration.

The Protest begins by protesting "against the dangerous mental pressure and misdirection of energies and aims, which are to be found in nearly all parts of our present Educational System." This alludes, doubtless, to the physical and moral aspects of the question; the former, as affecting more directly the students, the latter, as affecting more directly the teachers and the teaching bodies.

The Protest further enlarges upon the physical evils attendant upon the training for scholarships, prizes and class distinctions which the present system is said to encourage. It then proceeds to attack the system upon the intellectual and moral side, and notes that "under it, all education tends to be of the same type, since boys from all schools of the same grade meet in the same competition, and all teaching tends to direct towards the winning of the same prizes." And again: "It cannot be too often repeated that uniformity means arrest of growth and consequent decay; diversity means life, growth, and adaptation without limit."

Further, it is alleged in the Protest, that "the preponderating influence of examinations destroys the best teaching. Under it the teacher loses his own intelligent self-direction." And why? Because "he cannot devote his powers to such parts of a subject as are most real to himself. . . . as he is constantly controlled by the sense of the coming examination, in which, of course, he wishes his pupils to succeed." The effect on the student is thus stated: "The pupil . . . allows himself to be mechanically guided for the sake of success, his mental sympathies becomes bounded by the narrowest horizon. 'What will pass' in his examination becomes his ruling thought."

The next counts in the Indictment are: That the result of doing work simply for the sake of an all-important examination, tends to "strengthen the rote-faculties to the neglect of the rational faculties; the rapid forgetfulness of knowledge acquired; the cultivation of a quick superficiality and power of cleverly skimming a subject; the consequent incapacity for understanding original work; the desire to appear to know rather than to know; the forming of judgment on great matters where judgment should come later; the conventional treatment of a subject and loss of spontaneity; the dependence upon highly-skilled guidance; the belief in artifices and formulated answers; the beating-out of small quantities of gold-leaf to cover great expanses; the diffusion of energies over many subjects for the sake of marks, and the mental disinclination that supervenes to undertake work which is not of a directly remunerative character, after the excitement and strain of the race."

In conclusion, the Protest would sweep away all rewards, all prizes, all scholarships, all fellowships, and would apply all