

University and College News.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—There was no literary programme at the meeting last night, the general committee having set apart the evening for the proposed constitutional changes standing. Mr. F. E. Irwin, in accordance with his notice, moved that the Society abolish its prizes to speakers and readers, Mr. Farrish seconding the motion. It was carried without discussion by a vote of 35 to 7. The President, on request, ruled that the change would come into force this year, provided the consent of the College Council could be obtained prior to the date in March set apart for the election. It is understood that the Council meet on the afternoon of the same date. The Society then proceeded to elect a committee to adjudicate on the Society's essays. After the names of several gentlemen had been proposed, Messrs. Houston, Hutton and Keys were chosen.

Y.M.C.A.—The usual weekly prayer-meeting was held on Thursday afternoon. Subject: Uncertainty of life. 1 Sam. xx. 3, "There is but a step between me and death." Leader, Mr. T. A. Gibson. The following is a summary of the remarks made: Even the youthful and vigorous life is held on a very uncertain tenure. It is threatened by accident and disease on every hand; of its continuance for even the briefest period we have no assurance. The future we anticipate may never be ours. Only the present can we call our own. At the longest life is very short. It is a mere drop in the ocean of our endless existence. Our days are "swifter than a post." Our life on earth passes more swiftly than "a weaver's shuttle." It is as "a tale that has been told." If all this is true, then it behooves us to make the most of this short life. It should be crowded with earnest efforts to accomplish the end of our creation. Work, while the day lasts, for God and our fellows becomes the duty of those to whom life has been given. Preparation for a higher and nobler life beyond is to be made here. What we are and do now determines our destiny in the hereafter. Only those who are in Christ can have any sure hope of entering into His heavenly kingdom. Death for the Christian has been robbed of its terrors. For him it is being with Christ, which is "far better." To die is to "sleep in Jesus"—a sleep from which there shall be a glorious re-awakening. "For this corruptible must put on incorruption, and this mortal must put on immortality." 1 Cor. xv. 13. But for the sinner the Christless death still retains its sting. For him there is "no hope beyond." All is gloom and misery unless he turn to Christ and receive from him eternal life. The meeting next week will be addressed by Mr. John McKay, B.A., '83. Come and fill the hall.

The committee of Y.M.C.A. would acknowledge the following additional subscriptions: Chancellor Boyd, \$50; R. Kilgour, Esq., \$50; Dr. L. H. Smith, \$25; W. Houston, Esq., M.A., \$25; A. Baker, Esq., M.A., \$26; W. Dale, Esq., M.A., \$20; and ten dollars each from the following: J. A. Jaffray, B.A., W. L. H. Rowand, B.A., J. C. Smith, B.A., R. Haddow, B.A., R. C. Tibb, B.A., J. Hamilton, B.A., J. McGillivray, B.A., Jno. McKay, B.A., Jno. L. Campbell, B.A., J. L. Gil-mour (additional), W. Dewar, C. J. Hardie, T. R. Shearer, R. M. Glassford, N. H. Russell, A. E. Mitchell, J. Drummond, J. Argo, G. E. Morphy, A. A. Smith, H. J. Haviland, W. McMurchy. The total sum acknowledged through the 'Varsity is \$1,655. It is again earnestly urged on every one favorable to this project that voluntary subscriptions will greatly lighten the labour of the Committee.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.—The regular fortnightly meeting took place in S. P. Science, on Tuesday evening, 17th inst., at 8 p. m., the Vice-President, Mr. A. B. McCallum, B.A., in the chair. Bacillus tuberculosis was the subject of a short descriptive lecture by the chairman. The growth, shape and modes of preparation of this "Microbe" were explained, and specimens prepared and stained by the lecturer were exhibited. An interesting debate on the Germ theory, which had been opened by Mr. McCallum, followed. Mr. J. J. McKenzie read an able paper on Zeolites—the hydrated silicates—in which the classification, physical properties and the crystallization of these minerals received special attention. Examples of the best known varieties were shown. It was encouraging to notice the increased attendance at this meeting and the interest displayed in the proceedings.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.—A French meeting was held on Monday afternoon, at which Mr. La Force, President of the St. Jean Baptiste Society, of this city, presided. An essay was read on the late Edmond About by A. H. Gibbard. An essay on "Les Confidences" was also read by Mr. Shearer. Mr. McPherson gave a reading from one of Victor Hugo's odes. The discussion on the Modern French

Drama was opened by Mr. Squair, B. A., who was followed by Messrs. Sykes, Rowan and McPherson. Mr. La Force closed the proceedings with an address on "Quebec French."

Editor's Table.

The following books have been received in the Library since Feb. 1st:—

- "Saul; a Drama, &c." By Charles Heavysege.
- "Treatise on English Punctuation." By John Wilson.
- "Progressive Morality." By Thomas Fowler.
- "Elementary Lessons in Historical English Grammar." By Richard Morris.
- "Zeitschrift of wissenschaftliche Zoologie." B.d. 40.
- "German Dictionaries." Two, 4to and 8vo, by G. J. Adler.
- "Life of George Eliot." By J. W. Cross, 3 vols.
- "Rise and Growth of the Law of Nations." By John Hosack.
- "Cassell's German Pronouncing Dictionary."
- "Bacon." By R. W. Church. English Men of Letters Series.
- "Poems and Dramas." By Lord Lytton, 4 vols.
- "Roman Civil Law." By Sheldon Amos.
- "Index to the Statutes of Ontario." By E. N. Lewis.
- "Digest of the Criminal Laws." By Sir J. F. Stephen.
- "Digest of the Law of Criminal Procedure." By Sir J. F. Stephen.
- "History of the Criminal Law of England." By Sir J. F. Stephen, 3 vols.
- "Cases on the B.N.A. Act." By John R. Cartwright, 2 vols.

Of the foregoing list, the book which will probably excite most interest is the long-expected Life of George Eliot, by her husband J. W. Cross. It is a neatly bound post octavo edition, three volumes, from the press of Messrs. Harper. A cursory glance through the book gives the promise of much entertaining and readable matter, and pains have evidently been taken to meet all the demands of good biography. Mr. Cross seems to have arranged George Eliot's letters with the greatest care, so as to form an almost continuous narrative. His own part of the book is restricted to the smallest possible space, so that we really read George Eliot and not Mr. Cross, where, however, the biographer's remarks are necessary to fill up a gap, Mr. Cross has printed his own part in a narrower column. George Eliot's Journal is also interwoven with the Letters and the remarks of the biographer, and everything seems carefully chosen and compactly fitted into its place. We must at least thank Mr. Cross for giving us a book containing so much of George Eliot herself.

"BALLADES AND VERSES VAIN."

One of the most pleasing contributions to our poetical literature comes in this daintily bound and printed book. It is a selection from the various minor poems of Andrew Lang, by the hand of his friend Austin Dobson. The 'ballade' requires considerable mastery of language to be written with grace and freedom, while the importance of producing exquisite musical effect requires a most delicate ear. Lang's success in this species of composition is unquestionable, while writing much that is only musical trifling, he has often joined a most musical form to a beautiful poetical spirit. The 'ballade' will be a popular style of composition. It seems superior to the sonnet in naturalness and free adaptation to gay and sad strains. Compare the Ballade of Primitive Man, who

"Buried his dead with their toes
Tucked up, an original plan,
Till their knees came right under their nose,
'Twas the manner of Primitive Man."

with the Ballade of Autumn, the best of the series.

BALLADE OF AUTUMN.

We built a castle in the air,
In summer weather, you and I,
The wind and sun were in your hair,
Gold hair against a sapphire sky:
When autumn came, with leaves that fly
Before the storm, across the plain,
You fled from me by scarce a sigh—
My Love returns no more again!

The windy lights of Autumn flare,
I watch the moonlit sails go by;
I marvel how men toil and fare,
The weary business that they ply!
Their voyaging is vanity,
And fairy gold is all their gain,
And all the winds of winter cry,
"My Love returns no more again!"

There, in my castle of Despair
I sit alone with memory;