

At a meeting of the Osgoode Legal and Literary Society, on November 13th, an important amendment was made in the constitution of the society as regards the rights of barrister members.

The question came up in the form of a motion, providing that the society should consist of life members, honorary members and ordinary members. Life members should include past presidents of the society, and such other persons as the society might from time to time elect by ballot by a two-thirds vote of the members present at the meeting. Honorary members should consist of such barristers and solicitors practising in Toronto as might sign the roll and pay the proper fees. Ordinary members should consist of such students at law in attendance at the Law School or having attended the same within a period of two years next preceding and being resident in Toronto as should sign the roll and pay the proper fees. Honorary members and such life members as were barristers or solicitors should be permitted to vote for the office of president only, but in all other respects might take part in the proceedings of the society in the same manner and to the same extent as other members. Further provisions were added, placing the membership fee at one dollar per year.

Messrs. Sharpe, Montgomery, Elliott, O'Donoghue, Heeley, Ferrin, and the mover, Mr. Sissons, spoke briefly in favor of the motion, which was vigorously opposed by Messrs. Finlayson, Hunt, McLean and McWilliams.

The party which upheld the present system in the recent elections was sparsely represented at the meeting, and the proposed amendments carried by an overwhelming majority.

It is sometimes said that "Blackstone's Commentaries" is a book that is out of date in this age of

advanced law, and that however excellent it may be admitted to be in point of literary style, its value is largely lost by reason of the multitudinous alterations in the law and in methods of business since Blackstone's time. To a certain extent this is true, but the fact remains that no work on the subject of English law has since been produced which can take its place, and of late years a very general disposition has been manifested in legal circles to turn away from the ever conflicting reported cases and more thoroughly investigate the underlying principles of the common law. Necessarily this means a Blackstone revival and citations of that old, but standard, authority are increasing on every hand. Dr. Wm. Draper Lewis, the well-known Dean of the Law Department of the University of Pennsylvania has recently published a very excellent annotated edition of the Commentaries which, while retaining the whole of the original text, amplifies the same in copious notes so that one can readily comprehend the force of any part of it as applied to the conditions of the present day. On each page is also found, as a footnote, a translation of the Norman-French and other foreign words and phrases appearing there. All the cases in which Blackstone has been judicially cited in Canada, England or the United States are referred to and notes have been selected from the works of previous annotators. Barron Field's analysis and a complete index are added and the whole work makes four volumes and contains over 2,200 pages. The Canada Law Journal Co., by special arrangement with the American publishers, are offering this very excellent work in Canada at extremely low figures which place it within the reach of all and are made possible only by the continuing favor already accorded the book, both in England and the United States. Lewis' Blackstone goes a long way towards disposing