

the toasts, the following taking part: Vocal—Lang, Self, Lash; instrumental—Laschinger, Dobie; accompanist—Boswell.

Among the graduates present were: J. A. Duff, B.A.; E. B. Menill, B.A.; J. McDougall, A. L. McCullough, A. Lane, G. W. McFarlen, A. B. English and L. M. Bowman.

NATURAL SCIENCE.

A meeting of the Natural Science Association was held in the Biological lecture-room on Tuesday afternoon. Miss Curzon, B.A., read an interesting paper on "Fermentation." The two great groups of ferments, the Organized and the Unorganized or Enzymes, were described and contrasted. Of the Organized, attention was drawn to the Putrefactive ferments and one of their products, the Ptomaines.

The Enzymes were particularly described, the Diastatic being taken as a type.

The paper was followed by animated discussion on the conditions under which the digestive ferments act.

Mr. R. W. Sheraton, '94, then read an interesting paper on "Symbiosis." Certain plants have peculiarities of structure that furnish food and shelter to ants, who in turn protect the plant from certain of its enemies.

Next meeting, on January 10th, when Messrs. McDougall and Silcox will give papers.

COLLEGE SPIRIT.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:—

DEAR SIR,—Just now various matters of College interest are being brought before our notice. To an outsider it may seem we are, as an undergraduate body, undergoing changes and reforms. This is easily conceded; and to one of our observant selves there is a little improvement yet to be desired. We hesitate to take up the critical pen for fear of being styled a "novus homo," or of being classed with those whom the Editor dislikes as somewhat pessimistic. However, our life is worth nothing to us can we not make some sacrifice. Following our selfish instinct we would observe silence now as in the past, but what flickering college spirit is in us bids us write.

True a little needed reform has been taking place about Varsity of late. Still a little thought will reveal that this reform is due not to an increased seminary enthusiasm, but the dying out of what was. What we wish to say is this: There is not, among the students of the University, that fellow-feeling, intimate acquaintance, interdependence and freedom of approach to each other, which should exist. We are not interested in each other as a society of students should be. There is too much vertebral stiffness and tongue-bashfulness! Too much caste feeling. Our fellows are too wrapt up in their own ambitious intents, or this stupor of unconcern has so seized us that we scarcely deign to recognize each other in the halls, on the street, down town, or elsewhere. Carelessness here soon grows to indifference. Each plods his weary way along, bent on his own intent. It may have been a fellow student that passed, or it may have been the college factotum or a mason. To lectures; to plugging. To meals; to bed. Is this an ideal college round? Surely there can be no loss of dignity were a senior to salute his junior and freshman; nor any want of self-respect were the latter to look towards their seniors.

Many who do not enjoy the University life believe the friendships and associations of such life to be a kind of subordinated Paradise. Does not their belief, as to what is, put to shame the truth? It is not merely our own feeling, but that of many spoken to on the matter, that this free, unselfish, congenial college spirit is a thing more desirable than it is common amongst us. Let us have our class societies—they extend acquaintance and are profitable; but let us not make them an end, a unit in them-

selves. For as an individual, an individual year may be selfish. Let "Old Varsity" be to us all a name dear, under whose benign influence we dwell in active, not fanciful, fellowship.

Thus, with the re-wearing of the academics, which it is hoped will become general as though it were a mandate of the Senate, will be revived that spirit native to a college, which maybe died away with the embers the night of the great fire.

Sincerely,
RUHTRA.

THE TEACHING PROFESSION.

To the Editor of THE VARSITY:

DEAR SIR,—There appeared in your issue of Dec. 7th an article on our present system of professional training of High School teachers. The learned writer—a University graduate—passing over many features which might properly be regarded as subjects of criticism, notably the compelling of teachers to serve an apprenticeship, seems to have been at some pains to cast a slur on the holders of first-class C certificates. The fact that he has done this indicates that he has missed the great lesson that the University should have taught him.

For the first-class C men it may be said that they have had to pass an examination in Mathematics and English, and in Science or Moderns or Classics, quite as difficult as many of the graduates have had to write on; further, that they have had to obtain fifty per cent. on the examination; and, therefore, even though they may not have acquired that depth of psychological knowledge enjoyed by their critic, it is probable that they are as well equipped for the work they do as that occasional graduate whom the writer, with such becoming humility, confesses to be "deep learned in books, but shallow in himself." As to their holding positions when so many graduates are available, they have merely taken advantage of the regulations, and qualified themselves according thereto for teaching in our High Schools. As a general thing they comply with the rules of the system to which they belong, and it is not often that they stand in the way of better or more earnest men.

As a University graduate I would protest against anything that tends to foster antipathy between the University and the remainder of our educational system. There has been a lack of sympathy, arising from misunderstanding or pride, for which each section is somewhat to blame. The remarks of your contributor are surely not calculated to remove it.

Y.M.C.A. NOTES.—Notwithstanding the great counter-attraction of the mass meeting in the School of Science, a large number of students were present at the last meeting of the Association, which was led by Mr. Martin. Next Thursday's meeting will be the last for this term, and will assume the ordinary devotional form.

RALLY!—We learn with pleasure of the intended visit to Toronto of the Wilson Barrett Dramatic Company on the 19th. Mr. Franklyn McLeay, one of the most able members of the company, is, we are pleased to note, an old Varsity man. Thanks to the interest taken by Mr. Barrett in his career, Mr. McLeay has made exceptional progress in his chosen profession. Mr. McLeay has been made the subject of most flattering notices by all the leading English papers. The London *Star* speaking of the part taken by Mr. McLeay in *Pharaoh* says: "There is one piece of acting that will be talked about everywhere, that of the "Bat" by Mr. Franklyn McLeay, a young Canadian, who after a very few years of all kinds of acting touches in one performance the weird, the pathetic, the ludicrous and the gruesome in a most marvellous degree. This performance has brought the young actor to a bound to the very front rank of our finest artists." We trust that the students will "rally" at the Grand and show their appreciation of the success achieved by a graduate of our University.