

Room has in many particulars approached towards its ideal. Nor is it here alone that the comfort of the students has been studied. The change in the delivery of mail and the freedom of access to the Library have been duly appreciated. If the Senate would but provide seats for the hall between the English and Mathematical rooms our cup of happiness would almost run over.

BYSTANDER.

ALUMNI CONFERENCE.

In JOURNAL No. 15 we gave Rev. R. McKay's views of the changes since he left Queen's. This week we publish impressions of the recent Alumni Conference, which Rev. G. M. Milligan, B.A., '92, has kindly given at our request.

Perhaps some of the readers of the JOURNAL might like to peruse a few jottings, giving some of the impressions produced on the minds of some of those who took part in the late Conference.

The Conference could hardly yield other than valuable results. It brings men of all years together and thereby develops a genuine healthy living esprit de corps, which cannot help raising in the minds of our ministry the standard of ministerial qualification and privilege. It furnishes a strong incentive to younger men to keep up the habit of study acquired at school and college. It helps to secure the same good to older men, with the additional advantage of finding out where they were wise or unwise, clear or hazy in the conceptions they have reached in studies pursued since leaving college. These Conferences, too, may open up new fields of profitable inquiry to old as well as young men, for are not "the sons of the morning" always young? Why should a creature like man, possessed of "the powers of an endless life," ever strike work? The danger, however, attending mental activity in professional life is in its results becoming varied but undetached. Such Conferences tend, in the most potent way, to counteract such an evil by giving the mind an impetus and taste for systematic mental work.

Professorial work induces thinking, of a type keenly analytic and rigorously systematic. Coming, therefore, in contact with professors,

especially on their own lines of research, helps a man greatly to detect his errors of commission and omission in studies in which he may have acquired an interest.

The reading of papers by the members was especially valuable. It enabled the professor to find where a man stood, and thus in the best way reach him to render him help. A man, too, saw himself in the light of keen, graduated thought, a gift of unspeakable advantage, because helping us to see ourselves as in some measure the best minds see us in relations they are best able to judge what is true. A man who thinks more of his growth than his skin will always welcome such disclosures. In future Conferences perhaps changes for the better might be made in the preparation and discussion of papers. Men might be left to feel freer than they even were in the late programme to choose the themes upon which they might write. A committee might be selected to arrange the details connected with the reading of papers. Of course this would involve the sending forward of papers to the committee much earlier than was done lately. A rare privilege was enjoyed by the members of the Conference in their private interviews with the different professors. The affable and painstaking attitude of mind displayed by the professors on these occasions is beyond all praise. The development of Queen's since my day is simply marvellous. The young men within her walls to-day enjoy advantages "more precious than gold." By appreciating them will they best reflect honor upon their Alma Mater. To the principal and professors I may venture to express, on behalf of every member who attended the late Conference, our keen appreciation of their endeavors to make our sojourn among them a season of social enjoyment and of rare spiritual and intellectual benefit.

G. M. M.

Toronto, Feb. 28th, 1893.

Y. M. C. A.

Harry Fair led the prayer meeting on Friday afternoon. The subject, "Conversion," was handled with skill and great earnestness. Several of the members offered suggestions on the subject, and the meeting on the whole was one of the most profitable and enjoyable of the session.