

female intellect. It is contended on the one hand that a course of study which would be the best for a young man is necessarily not the best for a young woman, regarded simply as a student, and on the other that the intellectual training best calculated to educate the man for his future position in life is not the one best calculated to prepare the woman for her ultimate sphere. But the gravest objections are those based on moral grounds. It is claimed that the promiscuous intermingling of members of both sexes in the College lecture rooms and corridors would lead to intrigues fatal to those who indulged in them and to scandals ruinous to the institution which tolerated so lax a system.

The vigorous and persistent discussions of the last few years, together with the unquestionable success of the co-educative system in certain well-known Colleges, has done much to weaken the force of these conservative contentions and to convince the public that they partake largely of the nature of bogies. As regards the physical and intellectual objections, the rapidly increasing number of instances in which young women hold their own with young men in such Universities as Cambridge and London cannot be got over. Miss SCOTT, who took a stand which would have secured her the position of eighth wrangler at Cambridge at the last graduation examination, had she belonged to the sterner sex, looks, from her portrait in the *London Graphic*, like an unusually healthy young English girl, both physically and intellectually, and apparently shows fewer traces of the severe struggle than some of the male students who were her competitors. In fact GIRTON College is a standing answer to those who confine themselves to objections of these two kinds, while it does nothing towards removing moral objections to co-education. With respect to them it must be said that the burden of proof rests on the objectors, who occupy the position of advocates of what is at least a non-natural system. The sexes intermingle in the family circle, they are allowed to intermingle at school, they intermingle as members of society, and yet the opponents of co-education take the ground that they must not be allowed to attend the same classes, read the same text-books, and pass the same examinations for fear of moral contamination. It must be admitted that the experience to appeal to on the other side is limited, but the testimony based on it is very unanimous and satisfactory.

This question has a deep practical interest for the patrons and students of University College at the present time. Owing to the statutory regulation requiring all winners of scholarships to attend lectures in some college affiliated to the University of Toronto, young ladies who entertain great expectations of what they can do in the competition for prizes would naturally prefer attending at UNIVERSITY College to attending anywhere else. They would thus enjoy the advantage of competing on equal terms for prizes during their under-graduate course, and of competing on equal terms for situations as teachers after they graduate. No lady has yet gone beyond the second year in the University curriculum, but it is only a question of a very short time when many of them will do so, and as no college affiliated to Toronto University is equipped for a third or fourth year course, it is easy to see that it is only a question of time when female under-graduates will be knocking at the door of University College for admission. It is reported that some now in attendance at High Schools and Collegiate Institutes actually contemplate making an early application. All friends of educational progress should hail such a movement with pleasure. The question of co-education must be fought out, before long, at and in University College, and the sooner the contest—if contest there is to be—is begun, the sooner will the uncertainty be over. Let a few young ladies muster courage to break the ice and they will soon find a numerous troop plunging in after them and the young gentlemen generously applauding their intrepidity. [WILLIAM HOUSTON.]

OBSERVATIONS BY THE PATRIARCH STUDENT.

DURING the vacation the museum has undergone considerable alteration. The wet *vertebrate* specimens have been collected on one side, and the *invertebrate*, including the magnificent series, from the *protozoa* to the *arthropoda*, brought by Professor Wright last year from Naples, have been removed to the other. The horns have been taken down and re-varnished and the heads reset in their places.

A manuscript catalogue of President WILSON's archaeological and ethnological collections has been made, and, in a room just above his old private one, these hitherto locked up skulls and arrow-heads are now open to inspection. Prominent among the notable objects are three human brains, wholly and naturally preserved by Mr. PRIDE, by means of a new process, in which zinc sulphate and glycerine are among the reagents used.

THERE will be a special meeting of the University College Science Association on Tuesday evening next, for the purpose of nominating for

admission to the Society, undergraduates in science of the Second Year, from whom, afterwards, the representatives of that year to the Committee will be chosen; and of hearing the report of the General Committee on the distribution of magazines, &c., during the recent vacation. The first regular meeting will be held on Wednesday, 27th of October, when the new President, Mr. W. B. McMURRICH, will deliver his inaugural address.

LAST year when the reading room was moved from the College to the building of the Literary and Scientific Society the change was unanimously condemned, and only a small number of those who before resorted thither availed themselves of it in its new locality. All will no doubt be glad to learn that Professor LOUDON's old instrument room is to be a new receptacle for these erratic serials. It is to be hoped that our new Curator will not follow the bad example of his predecessors, but will endeavour to have the publications on the files early next week, will see that the pages are well cut, and that the profusion of thumb marks, as far as possible, be prevented from adding to the illustrations of the magazines.

GENTLEMEN who have rooms in the Residence should be grateful to Mr. GOLDWIN SMITH for the following suggestion which occurs in his tract 'Oxford University Reorganization,' now out of print:—"For the domestic management of colleges there ought to be a good House Steward. It is impossible that literary men should effectually superintend the details of a boarding-house. Probably, the admission of the Undergraduates themselves, or of a committee of them, to a share in the management of their boarding would conduce at once to frugality and contentment." The plan is not new now-a-days. Its partial adoption at Harvard has verified, as I observed myself when visiting the place last year, the predictions of those who were enthusiastic for the introduction of the system.

THE dramatic critic of the *Chronicle* is, I judge, either of a mild or of a very enthusiastic character. Without wishing to dispute the dictum that "Any criticism of Mr. BARRETT's acting would be an unwarrantable assumption," I would yet suggest the allowance of some slight freedom of speech. Encouragement towards hazarding the suggestion can be obtained from the fact that his merits as an actor have not a world-wide reputation, as in the case of Mr. BOOTH and Mr. IRVING; and it has not been considered an "unwarrantable" presumption to notice slight defects in the performances of these gentlemen. But the writer in the *Chronicle* may be "satisfied" with Mr. BARRETT, to use one of the delicate phrases of æstheticism—a sort of satisfaction which is generally found to vent itself in peremptory assertions.

A meeting of the Graduates and undergraduates of the University of Toronto will be called sometime next week, to hear the report of the Committee appointed to organize a University Boat Club. Up to date subscriptions to the amount of \$746 have been promised, but this is too small a part of the estimated cost to warrant the continuation of the plans. It is entirely owing to inactivity and want of vigor on the part of the undergraduates that this much needed institution has failed to be established, for outside the members of the Committee only nine of them have subscribed, and the Committee have been alone in their endeavors to carry out the project. A general want of sympathy has caused the defeat of the scheme, which, had it been started at a time more convenient for canvassing and not so near examinations could, we believe, have been floated on the generosity of the graduates and friends of the University alone. Perhaps the movement was premature, perhaps the project is as yet impracticable, but surely this unwillingness on the part of the undergraduates to give it a fair trial and assist in making it a success, cannot be too strongly condemned.

THE following autobiography, clipped from a local weekly, has been sent to me for publication:—"Mr. ———, of ———, has returned home after finishing his second year at the Toronto University, where he has been remarkably successful. In the Natural Science course he took one second and four first-class honors, making himself first prizeman. He was first at both College and University examinations in the sub-departments of mineralogy, geology and palæontology. He also took first-class honors in chemistry at the University examination, and first-class honors at both examinations in biology, including the sub departments of botany and zoology. He has now the standing of a third year honor graduate. We congratulate our young friend on his marked success thus far, and hope that his career may continue as brilliantly as it has begun!" (!!!) In conclusion I would just add, that if this third year honor undergraduate writes his honors at the fourth year examinations, both at College and