

made to pay. We commend the whole subject to our readers, with the hope that a thorough ventilation of the matter will result, and that we may before long be enabled to take some definite and concerted action in the near future. The scheme is a deserving one.

SPORTING AND DRAMATIC.

We feel called upon, owing to one or two recent events, to again say a few words about the University theatre nights. This subject has already been dealt with in these columns, in an article that very clearly showed what the position of the FORTNIGHTLY is in the matter. We have always maintained that by far the most satisfactory settlement of the question is to have one theatre turn-out engaged in by all the students of the University, which would, accordingly, give the public something like a correct conception of the strength of McGill when she turns out in force. At present the public seems to be waking up to the fact that our University is a great institution and that the students are a very important part of the University. We believe that this impression has been much increased by the whole-hearted way in which the college men have turned out at the call of their officers on occasions of importance during the past few years. Among these occasions have been the annual visit to the theatre. The theatre managers have learnt the value of securing the patronage of the students on these great occasions, and they, as well as the managers of the theatrical companies, now do all they can to get the McGill men to patronize them, and make every arrangement possible for our convenience and pleasure when we go. They know that when McGill turns out, every seat in the auditorium will be occupied. Now, we are running the risk of losing these advantages and of weakening rather than increasing the favorable impression now forming in the public mind, merely by making ourselves too cheap.

A moment's reflection will convince one that this is a correct statement of the case. Last college year there were two "theatre nights," and the committees of management were so heartily supported that each was a success. Just after the Christmas vacation McGill turned out to do honor to Wilson Barrett, and, by the spirit with which all joined in, did honor to our Alma Mater as well. It should have ended here, but such was not the case. Invitations were received by the students asking them to attend the theatres upon other occasions. Evasive answers were often returned to these invitations, and certain interested students were allowed to go *as students*, though the college banners were not sent. The advertisements that McGill was coming in force drew a great many to the theatres, and these were disappointed and disgusted at the hoax that had been played upon them. Our theatre night last autumn was very successfully celebrated. Though, unfortunately, all did not listen to the same play, the impression of the strength and *esprit de corps* of the students of McGill was greatly enhanced. The unfortunate bungle of a few days ago, when it was advertised that the McGill boys were going to see Wilson Barrett, has a decided

tendency in the opposite direction. It is very unfortunate that such a thing could happen. That McGill men honor Mr. Barrett was clearly demonstrated a year ago, but that does not mean that we must give him an ovation whenever he comes to Montreal. We cannot expect that busy students can celebrate more than one night annually at the theatre, unless the occasion be exceptional indeed. At best these turn-outs in the middle of the Session can be only half supported, and accordingly should not be undertaken at all. At any rate, it is very unwise for any body of students to arrange for a theatre night until the different Faculties in regular meeting have decided that the occasion demands it.

We think that the best plan would be to have one and only one University night annually, in the enjoyment of which not only the undergraduates but also the graduates and friends of the University might participate. This would be promotive of harmony and good-fellowship, would foster and strengthen the University *esprit de corps*, and give the public and friends of McGill an annual object-lesson on the importance and strength of our Alma Mater. The apparent desire on the part of the theatre managers to secure the patronage of even a portion of the students on these occasions leads us to believe that, if the full power of McGill were exerted to make one night every year memorable on account of the enthusiasm with which the College men celebrate their annual turn-out to the theatre, considerable revenue might be derived for some College Society, say the Athletic Association, on these occasions. Let us keep to the text: "One annual theatre night, and that a howling success."

UNIVERSITY CALENDAR.

We would call the attention of our readers to a column in another part of this number, under the heading, "What? Where? When?" which contains notices of the more important meetings to be held by the various societies of McGill during the next fortnight. The Editors have decided to set apart a column of the paper in which all meetings of special interest to all or to any considerable portion of the students of the University may be duly announced. In doing this we believe that we are supplying a long-felt want. The University societies and clubs have long needed some means by which the regular meetings might be made known to the students at large, but especially has the lack been felt when some extraordinary meeting, match or other event had to be announced. We meet the difficulty, as other college papers have done, by opening a column for such items, thus affording a means by which any college gathering or event may be officially announced.

In order that the column may fulfill the purpose for which it is set apart, the officers—especially the secretaries—of the college societies must avail themselves of the opportunity thus afforded, and see that all important events are duly announced therein.

To assure insertion, the notices must be in the hands of the Editors not later than 7.30 p.m., on the Saturday preceding the issue of the paper.