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Editorials.

A PROGRAMME AT THE A.M.S.

THE enthusiasm with which Mr. J. Z. White's lecture on "The Right to Work" was received by the students makes one wonder whether it would not be a wise move on the part of the Alma Mater Society to have more such lectures. It would be a pleasant and profitable way of filling up the society's last order of business, which is usually left so vacant. This year it is rather too late to attempt anything, but next fall, it might be possible to arrange for a series of popular lectures on interesting subjects. A few first-class men from outside places might be engaged, and for the rest, we have numbers of men about our own university who would willingly give a lecture or two to the Alma Mater Society during the session.

It is argued by some that the students are lectured to death, as it is, and would not attend such meetings. There is a certain amount of truth in

the statement, but a careful selection of topics and speakers would, in a large measure, get over this difficulty. The ordinary college student is usually none too well informed on a variety of subjects which lie outside his course. It is a lamentable fact that there is no place where a man can become so narrow, if he allows himself, as at a university. The opportunities and inducements for specialization are so great that students are apt to neglect all else in the pursuit of their one special subject. How often do students in Arts and Divinity have a chance of hearing a lecture on biology or physics or astronomy or geology? How many of them have any idea, for example, of the workings of such inventions as the X rays or the wireless telegraph? How often do students in Science and Medicine, and in some branches of Arts, have the opportunity of listening to a lecture on art or literature or economics? Scarcely more than once a year. The result is that when a man like Mr. White happens along, who develops his theory cleverly and logically, and who has a fund of illustrations and a certain amount of wit, what he says "goes" with a large part of his audience.

The Philosophical Society is doing a good work in this line, but the papers read there are often too technical and abstruse to be of much value to those not directly interested. Besides the name rather frightens away some who would otherwise attend. If the Alma Mater Society could take the matter up and not supersede but supplement the work of the Philosophical Society there is little doubt but that the result would be beneficial. A series of popular lectures touching on some interesting