

"OLD MCGILL."

Some great men have had the faculty of condensing a very great deal of wisdom in a very few words and these sententious sayings have been treasured up by each succeeding generation until now we have an abundant supply; yet we doubt very much whether anything has been or could be said which would be of such supreme interest to McGill as the four words, "The Annual Is Out."

This fact announces the successful accomplishment by the Junior Year of a project in which, at one time, we thought they would fail, and it allays the feverish unrest and expectancy which has pervaded university circles during the past two months when the annual was *coming out* "next week."

Of course in our criticism we must bear in mind the fact that this is the result of a first attempt; and, though men of '98 have said "Never mind that, judge it on its merits," we feel it is only just to them to take the fact into consideration.

We are very well pleased with the outside of the book which is bound in dark green buckram with the university crest and the name "Old McGill" stamped in gold on the front, while on the back is stamped '98. The whole produces an effect which is rich and artistic without being gaudy and common. Space does not permit our going into a detailed account of the book but we may notice some features which are especially praiseworthy.

With one or two exceptions, the illustrations are exceptionally fine, and the view looking up the avenue on page V is a most pleasing introduction to the college grounds. The groups, especially of the football teams, are good, though some of the class pictures seem to lack definition which may be due to lack of detail in the photograph. The pictures of several of last year's football matches bring out very well McGill's superb line play and we feel our sporting blood rise as we look at the illustration of the Brockville game. To glance through at the illustrations alone would give a person a pretty good idea of college life in 1897 from the freshman on the Junior team to venerable Cook who

with a bag of coppers in hand guides the ship of state.

We cannot leave this subject without calling especial attention to the group of buildings on page 25, where we see the home of our alma mater in 1824, in 1830, and in 1851 with a picture of the founder, James McGill.

The cuts of Lord Aberdeen, of the Chancellor, and of Sir William Dawson are very good and the excellent picture of Principal Peterson will give the alumni an idea of the appearance of the man of whom we are all so proud.

The individual photos of the Junior Year are a striking feature.

The Glee and Banjo Club have every reason to be proud of themselves as they appear on pages 90 and 91; and one of the most charming cuts in the book, is the picture of the editorial board and the reduced fac-simile of the title page of the FORTNIGHTLY, on pages 92 and 93.

The many sides of student life have been well handled in Mr. MacVicar's characteristic and suitable pen and ink sketches.

Of the matter, we are especially pleased with the article upon the History of the University by Dr. Colby. It is highly interesting and important both to alumni and students to possess an accurate knowledge of the career of our institution; and this article, which furnishes in concise form the main events of McGill's history, aside from any literary merit, is by reason of its historical value, the most important feature of the book. It preserves for us as it were the continuity of past and present.

The short histories of the Chancellor, of Sir William Dawson, and of Principal Peterson are full of interest as also are the articles on "X Rays."

In the Miscellany and Retrospect we have matter which is of special interest to students and it is here that we feel the pulse of the collegiate blood. Here the cares, joys, sorrows, and jokes of the students appear and in the "Bacchanalian" or "Serenade" on page 171 or the poem on page 147 we glance at their amusements.

Athletics have been well handled and we congratulate the Juniors on their painstaking tabulation of statistics.

The book as a whole is, we think, a credit to the University and we heartily congratulate the junior class upon the result of their labors.

CRITIC.