

asm, and the result was proportionately successful. As to the social enjoyment, individual opinions must always differ, but upon the question of the musical part of the entertainment all will agree; it showed that the University recognized the great advance in Toronto's musical taste, and had provided a suitable entertainment. It now becomes our duty to chronicle an unsuccessful attempt at the beginning of the year. We were promised a Grand Glee Club concert, which was to outshine the efforts of the Club in the Antigone performance of the previous year. No performance did take place, but the promise of one next year is given us, and we look for its fulfilment; an event of this character is a bond between the University and citizens of Toronto, which would help to give the University the recognition which should be an aim of all her sons.

A significant change took place this year in the Literary Society. The President of this influential body for next year has been elected, not from the graduates of the University, but from the roll of honorary members, a Professor in the University. Objections were made to this departure from the ordinary custom, but the mass of undergraduates were firm in their decision, and party strife was confined to the subordinate offices.

The movement which resulted in the formation of the 'Forum' is not without its meaning. It has been felt more and more that the Literary Society—partly by reason of defects in its constitution, partly because of the intensely Conservative spirit which has, as a rule, characterized its proceedings—did not afford an adequate practical training in the more useful modes of public speaking. A secession of a large body of undergraduates from its ranks is not, therefore, to be wondered at, and the result has been the formation of a debating society modelled on Parliamentary lines, and with the object of affording to all its members ample opportunity for extempore speaking and criticism.

The physical side of our activity has been as much cultivated as the intellectual and social. The gymnasium has been full to overflowing, and the urgent cry is now for more room, more appliances. But it is to football that the glory of our athletic achievements belongs, glory won by much endurance and self-denial as well as pleasurable exercise. In a season of more than usual activity, the Rugby Union Club was more than usually successful, and that too after passing a resolution which deprived them of some of the best players of previous years; out of nine matches, two only were lost. Unhappily one of two was the inter-University match with McGill College, Montreal. It is hoped that the suggestions with regard to training and early practice will be acted upon, and produce a more favorable result in the coming season.

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We publish the full returns of the University examinations in Law, Medicine, and Arts. The reports have been unusually long in making their appearance, and, as usual, considerable inconvenience has been experienced by undergraduates—those of the fourth year especially—in being kept in suspense until two days before Convocation. It seems unreasonable that nearly two weeks should elapse before the examiners' reports are presented to the Senate, and there ought to be nothing in the way of all being ready, as we understand some are, two or three days after the close of the examinations.

No member of our Senate takes hold on questions of educational interest more firmly and liberally than Professor Loudon, and he it is who now comes forward to bring an invaluable boon to undergraduates in the shape of a curtailment of examinations. We are over examined. A University, the best authorities are agreed, can do its work best by allowing to the College the whole work of teaching, and by confining itself to examinations, and those to the narrowest limits compatible with thoroughness. Surely it is absurd and harmful to enforce thirteen examinations in a four years' course. If some of our

University examinations are done away with and College work accepted instead, we will do better work and be sufficiently and, probably, more thoroughly examined. This is the plan of the German Universities and of Oxford, and will soon be general. With us there are practical difficulties to be overcome, some of which are pointed out in a letter in another column. On one point there raised, the discouragement of independent study by the proposed change, we have already given our opinion, that that change would do more than anything else to encourage independence of thought and investigation. As to our young lady undergraduates, they will not be allowed to suffer. They will be placed on an equal footing with us, either by admission to all examinations, the building of a separate ladies' college, or by co-education. We think the beneficent character of Professor Loudon's proposition will be so generally recognized as to be carried through the Senate, and then welcomed by all University men.

The meeting of Convocation next Thursday evening promises to be a most important one. The most important questions to be discussed are, increased endowments, increased representation on the Senate, the establishment of an Executive Committee of Convocation, and the payment of an annual fee as a necessary qualification for voice in the election of Senators. All these are very important questions and will no doubt call forth much discussion; for there are, with regard to them all, strong opinions on both sides. Now, when graduates seem to be waking up to the desire to make something of Convocation, if possible, it is to be hoped that they will be present on Thursday evening in large numbers, determined to understand and establish principles and lines of action, upon whose soundness and firmness the continuation of a reasonable and useful existence of Convocation must depend.

Professor Loudon's motion for the establishment of a new degree of Ph. D. promises to fill a long felt want. Nothing could be more desirable or beneficial than a spur to post-graduate study. This our degree of M.A. has ceased to be, if it ever was such, for, having fallen so low as to be measured almost entirely by the monetary standard, it is no longer an object of graduate work or of graduate ambition. This it is intended to make the proposed degree, which, open to all courses in the University, and demanding practical proof of work performed, will at the same time furnish a stimulus to study and stand as a fair criterion of the worth of candidates. Any degree that will take the place of our effete M.A. will be welcomed; and we look to such a carrying out of Mr. Loudon's intentions as will establish a fair, practicable and reasonable post-graduate continuation of University work and University interests.

After the close of our college year we have little to record in the way of sports, while this is the season when our American exchanges seem purposely set apart for the recording of collegiate and inter-collegiate matches. Baseball is unknown among us, and a boat-club is a *desideratum* not yet realized. True, we have the annual cricket match with Trinity, and another on Convocation Day; but even in these the teams supposed to represent us are by no means representative. Tennis this year is struggling for a recognized existence, and in the fall our foot-ball propensities will make themselves emphatically felt. But so long as May is entirely taken up with examinations, and college term does not begin till October, we can never expect to be known among colleges as the headquarters of Canadian college sport.

'Reminiscences of the battle of Ridgeway' have a peculiar interest for University men, for reasons with which every recruit to K company speedily becomes acquainted, and we are therefore grateful to the chronicler of the struggle for putting us in possession of accurate facts on a subject which has been to us only a half-remembered legend, told in fragments.