

THE MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY met on Tuesday afternoon, Dec. 14th, '86. The President, Mr. T. Mulvey, B. A., in the chair. Mr. Robertson read a biographical sketch of Leibnitz, and the members of the society discussed his works. Mr. L. H. Bowerman, B.A., read an excellent paper on the Mathematics of Insurance and Mortality, showing the calculations on which Insurance Companies base their business transactions. Messrs. Dixon and Duff gave experiments in Acoustics. On motion, the problems were held over until the next meeting, January 11th, 1887, when a paper on Galileo will be read. The General Committee has decided to make some slight changes in the programmes, which will come in force next term.

The severity of the weather on Tuesday, 11th inst., evidently kept a number of the Mathematical students away from the meeting of their Society, which opened the proceedings of the year on that day. Mr. J. B. Bowerman was nominated for membership. Mr. J. A. Duff offered an excellent paper on Friction, which evoked considerable discussion. This is the first paper read by an undergraduate during the academic year. It is hoped that the other undergraduates will take the exhortation of the President to heart, and follow the example set by Mr. Duff. Problems were solved by Messrs. Bowerman, Rosebrugh and McGowan.

A report from the General Committee, arranging some changes in the programmes, was read and adopted.

LITERARY AND SCIENTIFIC SOCIETY.—The first meeting for the term was held on Friday evening, the 14th inst. In the unavoidable absence of the President, Mr. T. C. Robinette was requested to take the chair. After routine business, Mr. J. A. Ferguson was nominated for the vacant office of Vice-President. It will be remembered that Mr. T. B. P. Stewart was elected to this office last March, but failing to put in an appearance in October, he was granted a lengthy leave of absence. A communication from Mr. Stewart was read to the society on Friday evening, in which Mr. Stewart expressed his regrets that his health compelled him to remain in Europe. He thanked the society for granting his leave of absence, and after wishing every success to the society in its good work of fitting men to influence their country's destiny, urged its members to be true to their fatherland, to have faith in its future, and to direct their talents and education to advance humanization and civilization. It is in the power of all to do something in this direction by earnest effort. The literary programme was of an interesting nature. Mr. L. B. Stephenson's reading from Nicholas Nickleby was well received. The debate was very lively, and we cannot help thinking that the committee would do well to have parliamentary debates more frequently. Mr. J. J. Hughes moved that "in the opinion of this society popular theatre going is a benefit to the community." Mr. J. S. Johnston seconded this motion in an able speech. Mr. A. H. O'Brien moved in amendment, seconded by Mr. Jeffrey, that the present low tone of the popular drama is deleterious rather than beneficial to the community. On a subsequent objection taken to its form the amendment was ruled out of order. Several other speakers followed, among whom were Messrs. A. T. Hunter, Macdonald, J. M. Talbot, J. A. Garvin, Ritchie and G. C. Biggar. After an able summing up, the chairman put the motion to the meeting and declared it carried.

The regular weekly meeting of the Historical and Political Science Association was held in McMillan's hall, Wednesday, Jan. 19th; President Houston in the chair. A paper was read by J. M. Clark, B. A. The object of representative institutions was pointed out, viz., that the wishes of those who have a rational will should be represented. The present system of electing representatives fails to do this; for all majorities are represented, but minorities have no representation, or are misrepresented. Elected bodies often fail to reflect the true public opinion, and may even be directly opposed to it. Sometimes the party supported by the largest number of voters has a minority of representatives. The system of representing merely local majorities develops party feeling, gives local interest too much influence in deciding elections, often gives the floating popularity control, and tends to lower the intellectual qualifications of representatives. The essayist mentioned a number of other methods. (1) The plan tried in South Australia—the whole country is the constituency, and each voter has as many votes as there are candidates; (2) cumulative voting, which is much the same as (1); (3) Lord John Russell's method of forming "three-cornered constituencies," each constituency elects three members, and a voter may vote for two candidates. This is the method followed in Toronto in electing representatives for the Ontario Legislature; (4) Mr. Hare's method—"proportional representation." The constituency is the whole country; a man may record his vote for any candidate; (5) a modified form of this suitable for Canada. Let a province be divided into districts each electing, say, twelve members; a man could vote for as many candidates as he pleases, indicating his preference by numbers opposite their names. A limit would be placed to the number of votes required for the election of a candidate, and candidates would be elected in the order of their preference by the public. This would secure the election of the men of the greatest calibre and avoid many evils of our present system. A discussion by

members of the association followed, in which objections and questions were stated and answered. The next meeting will be held at 4:15 p.m., Jan. 26. Papers will be read next Wednesday on "Natural Positive Law," by Messrs. J. A. McMillan and N. H. Russell. As Lorimer and Maine will be discussed, it is hoped a large number will be present.

CONVERSAZIONE.—The first meeting of the conversazione committee was held in Moss Hall on Wednesday, January 12th. The principal business consisted in striking off the sub-committees, which are as follows:—

Dressing-room.—J. S. MacLean (Convener), W. P. Thompson, F. F. Manley, M.A., J. G. Hume, R. L. Johnston, N. H. Russell, G. A. H. Fraser, J. F. Shesinger, R. H. Johnston, H. E. T. Haultain.

Finance.—F. H. Saffel (Convener), J. H. Moss, W. A. Bradley, W. F. W. Creelman, W. H. Irving, T. C. Robinette, Andrew Elliott, D. J. MacMurchy, J. F. Brown, W. H. Smith, J. A. Ferguson, T. A. Gibson, W. H. Hodges, B. Atkins, Laframme, H. Richardson, C. M. Canniff, J. E. Jones, P. Forin, W. Cross, H. E. T. Haultain, W. J. Burt, S. A. Ball, A. McNally, A. Watt, W. H. Graham, F. H. Moss, T. E. Smith.

Music.—R. M. Hamilton (Convener), J. O. Miller, J. A. Garvin, W. H. Blake, B.A., M. S. Mercer, B.A., W. A. Frost, B.A., A. J. McLeod, B.A., C. W. Gordon, B.A., A. H. Young, J. E. Jones, J. D. Spence, J. J. Ferguson, A. T. Thompson.

Reception.—A. H. O'Brien (Convener), G. C. Biggar, F. H. Moss, W. A. Bradley, A. J. Hamilton, B.A., A. D. Brooks, B.A., R. McArthur, W. L. Miller, H. B. Bruce, N. H. Russell, V. M. McKay, P. McLeay, G. Boyd, E. C. Senkler, G. A. H. Fraser, R. J. Gibson, A. A. Macdonald, D. Boyd, E. Sullivan, A. Watt.

Heating, Seating, Lighting.—McKendrick (Convener), J. H. Rodd, J. A. McMillan, J. B. McEoy, W. A. LaPorte, H. J. Cady, H. W. C. Shore, W. Taylor, L. Boyd, R. McIlraith, A. T. Proctor.

Decoration.—E. O. Acheson, J. O. Miller, M. V. Kelly, C. Marani, J. H. Bowes, B.A., C. C. Owen, R.A., George Acheson, B. A., A. J. Armstrong, J. A. McMillan, E. F. Blake, W. E. Burritt, H. McClaren, L. E. Skey, D. Ferguson, C. M. Canniff, J. D. Spence, P. Forin, J. B. Pike, A. D. Thompson, G. B. McClean, J. Douglas, W. I. Senkler, W. J. Burt, G. A. Ball, A. McNally, W. B. Smith.

Refreshments.—H. A. Atkins (Convener), G. Logie, W. P. Mustard, P. McEown, G. Boyd, J. S. Johnston, A. T. Hunter, T. B. Smith, W. H. Graham.

Incitation.—F. Redden (Convener), J. A. Patterson, M.A., W. H. Hunter, J. H. Moss, A. A. Macdonald.

Printing.—F. B. Hodgins (Convener), F. A. C. Redden, H. A. Atkins, T. Nattress, W. McBrady, T. Rogers, W. J. Healy.

ANNOUNCEMENT.

THE VARSITY is conducted by undergraduates of the University of Toronto, and will appear every Saturday of the academic year. It aims at being the exponent of the views of the University public, and will always seek the highest interests of our University. The Literary Department will, as heretofore, be a main feature. The news columns are full and accurate containing reports of all meetings of interest to its readers.

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