

We are glad to learn the illness of Mr. F. Macallum, B.A., has passed away, and that he has recovered. Mr. Day recently received a letter from him, the tone of which shows that the anxieties and responsibility of a missionary's life have not robbed him of that keen sense of humor which occasionally displayed itself during his college days, much to the amusement and enjoyment of his fellows.

The writer recently saw a letter from Mrs. Cotton, who said Mr. and Mrs. Lee had stayed with them for a few days at Bailundu, on their journey to Cisamba. It was a pleasure, saddened by the death of Mrs. Saunders, which had just then occurred. The same letter said that Mr. Cotton, who was Mrs. Lee's fellow voyager two years ago to the West Central African Mission, had been peremptorily ordered home by the doctor, if he wished to save his life. He was suffering badly from malarial fever. He and his wife and little ones were leaving reluctantly, and with heavy hearts, the people and the work they had learned to love.

Our missionaries need our individual prayers, and the prayers of the churches. We ask the readers of the INDEPENDENT and the College Column to remember them personally, and frequently at the throne of grace.

M'GILL NEWS.

McGill examinations are upon us, and this means, to the Arts men, and some if not all of the Theologs, a burning of more or less of "mid-night oil," or else being called up by the janitor at 4 a.m. But, then, this extra strain does not last long, and afterwards comes the fortnight's rest, which, in view of the steady work that is being done all round, will be needed and appreciated. In this connection we are happy to say that the health of the students is good. There has been no sickness whatever thus far.

At a recent meeting of the Corporation of McGill, Mr. Peter Redpath generously offered a new library building, on condition that a site be provided. His offer has been accepted. Truly, it seems, as Prof. Colby has said, that McGill is bound to become one of the five or six great Anglo-Saxon educational institutions of the world.

It would appear that the day is not far distant when university dinners shall be conducted along the line of strictest temperance principles. The question has been warmly discussed in the McGill Faculty of Arts, and the general impression seems to be that if the matter were properly worked up, no wine would be allowed on the table at the Faculty dinner next year.

NOTE BY EDITOR OF C. I.—In relation to one paragraph, speaking of helpful contributions, we

would greatly desire articles of a nature to direct seeking souls, and to strengthen saved ones. We cannot ask this brother and the other brother to send us an article, without laying ourselves under an obligation to insert it when it comes. And these are the very kind of articles that are sure to be *too long*; and almost as sure to be dry and uninteresting: some old sermon "razeed." Tell us what you told that young man the other night; the one who went away rejoicing in Christ Jesus. Or the talk you had in the "after-meeting" on Sunday night, with that fashionable young woman, that decided her to be a Christian, only in one-fifth the words you have used. A one page article of this kind, is worth twenty times the same when diluted into three pages.

For the Young.

SOUTH AMERICA.

South America is the smaller half of the New World. Four fifths of it lies in the tropics. It has been remarked that it is largest where North America is smallest, and smallest where it is largest. Some have thought its physical position, so largely in the tropics, gave it a great advantage prospectively over the northern part of the hemisphere, which has so great a proportion lying in the cold of the far North. This is not to be taken without some caution. It is relatively deceptive when merely judged from the map. Commercially, the most largely productive part of South America, after all, is found within its temperate, and not within its tropical districts. Brazil is the size of the United States, but a small part of it is esteemed capable of agriculture. The equatorial valley is filled with dense forests. Yet South America is, as a whole, very interesting and important.

Fifty—some say sixty—millions of people are the total population of Spanish America, including the West Indies and Brazil, of whom not less than five per cent. are European subjects. There are also about* a half million savage Indians, or, roughly, approaching twice as many as the total Indian population of the United States including Alaska. These are confined mostly to the interior of the continent of South America, with a few small tribes, numbering, perhaps, 5000, in Central America. Three-tents of the population of South America is put down as pure white and one-tenth negro; others are of mixed blood. The rapid immigration of Europeans of late years has, however,

*We are following the official document of William Eleroy Curtis, printed at the Government Printing Office at Washington in 1889. Others will present divergent figures from these.