

COLLEGE SOCIETIES.

THE SODALITY OF THE BLESSED VIRGIN has purchased an exquisite statue of Our Lady of the Immaculate Conception, half life size, which, placed on a marble stand occupies the centre of a temporary oratory during the recitation of the office. This statue is really a gem, and shows the excellent taste of the one or ones who selected it.

THE SODALITY OF THE HOLY ANGELS, whose members are in the Junior Department, has been re-organized, with the following officers: Director, Rev. D. N. Forget, O.M.I.; Prefect, A. Bedard; 1st Assistant, A. Sabourin; 2nd Assistant, J. W. Woolsey; Secretary, W. Davis; Treasurer, O. Carrier; Sacristans, A. Plunkett and P. Paradis; Councillors, W. Bourgeau, A. Ryan, G. Constantineau, E. Valin.

ST. THOMAS' ACADEMY held its first meeting for the new year on Jan 23rd, when E. P. Groulx analyzed Act III, Sc. II of *Julius Caesar*, which contains the speeches of Brutus and Antony over the body of Caesar. On Jan 31st, T. P. Murphy read a very finely written paper on "Law" which evoked considerable discussion.

On Jan. 22nd, the SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY, or rather *the* Debating Society, for it seems that the Juniors do not intend to organize this year, met to consider "the danger of foreign immigration to the United States." P. J. O'Malley made a very strong case for his side, insisting that the American workmen should not be obliged to compete with cheap foreign labour. He was ably seconded by M. F. Fitzpatrick, whose *debut* was most successful. On the negative, J. P. Donovan and D. A. Campbell pointed out that foreigners had built up the Union and said that their work was not yet done. Contrary to the expectation of many, the question was decided in favor of the affirmative by a ballot of eleven to nine.

"Resolved, that the cultivation of the arts and sciences is not an evidence of soundness of natural life," was the subject before the society on Jan. 29th. The sudden illness of E. J. Leonard, the principal speaker in favour of the affirmative, left his place vacant, but the debate was carried on by Messrs. Murphy, Regan and Moriarty on one side, T. Donovan and Phalen on the other. It was thought better in the circumstances not to take any vote, and the Rev. Director suggested that it be considered an undecided question. The vacant position on the committee of this society has been filled by the election of Mr. F. L. French, '91.

On Thursday, Jan. 26th, the Dramatic Association was re-organized. Its prospectus will be found in another column.

On Jan. 11th, before the MINERALOGICAL SOCIETY, J. T. Foley read an excellent essay on "Spectrum Analysis." But the most interesting event in the history of the society for the past month was M. F. Fallon's paper on "Darwinism" on Jan. 18th. Though intended only as an introduction to the subject it afforded material for a very lively discussion. The essayist's aim is to

cause the question of evolution to be regarded in all its bearings, and with the broadest possible view, and his defence of a development hypothesis promises to be a gallant if not successful one.

At the next meeting of this society, Jan. 25th, the Rev. Director, Father Marsan, gave by special request the history of his analysis of the Ottawa river water, and the newspaper discussion that ensued. The result was that which seemed a rather dry and uninteresting subject when studied in the papers, was made both profitable and entertaining when treated in a lecture of crystalline clearness.

The half-yearly election of officers for the Mineralogical Society occurred on Feb. 1st. The only resulting change is that J. Landry becomes Treasurer, *vice* W. F. Kehoe, resigned.

DRAMATIC ASSOCIATION.

Among the popular amusements of the day there is certainly none which, deservedly or undeservedly, stands higher in public favor than theatrical exhibitions. This being so, it becomes the duty of any institution which aims at the complete education of youth, to direct their natural liking for these performances into the proper channel by giving them a taste for legitimate drama. In our college this matter has always received due attention, and with the eminently satisfactory results of creating a refined taste for high-class comedy and tragedy, and of developing considerable histrionic ability among the students. The citizens of Ottawa have, in days gone by, witnessed many agreeable performances within these walls; and the representations of *Julius Caesar*, *Richelieu*, *Cross of St. John* and *William Tell*, frequently surpassed, *sic jama habet*, what might be expected of amateurs. But for a few years there was a falling-off. The college hall with all its scenic paraphernalia was burned, and for some time a lack of accommodation and of stage properties greatly impeded the efforts of the Rev. Director and his assistants to keep the standard up to its accustomed height. Then Death's sad ravages in the Faculty necessitated an abstention from public appearances through respect for the memory of our beloved President and saintly proessor.

Last spring, however, saw the renaissance, and the production of Schiller's *Wallenstein* was equal if not superior to anything in the dramatic annals of the college. A noble drama, inferior only to those of Shakespeare, turned into majestic English verse by Coleridge, a truly kindred spirit to Schiller, superbly mounted, with a splendid cast of characters, it was, as was well said by a competent critic in the *Citizen*, an intellectual treat to witness.

To Rev. Father Balland, who, as Director of the Dramatic Society, has never spared either time or pains to render these scenic representations worthy of the college, is pre-eminently due whatever success has been thus attained.