

CITY MISSION WORK.

Among the different societies and institutions in connection with our College, none has a more widely reaching influence than the University Y.M.C.A.; an influence quiet in its working, but by no means less powerful on that account. Prosperous in its general undertakings, it is yet felt that it might be still more so. One of the difficulties, if not the chief, under which the work is carried on is the tendency among the members to leave the burdens of labor upon the shoulders of a few. It is generally recognized that this is perhaps due, not so much to lack of interest or willingness to assist, as to a want of knowledge of the precise character of the different lines of effort outside of the well-known weekly meetings. These lines of effort are promoted and guided by Committees whose chief problem is how to let all the student body become acquainted with what they deliberate upon, so that any one, moved at any time to enter personally into the execution of their deliberations, may know the directions in which their opportunities lie.

One of the Association committees has charge of a work which should commend itself to every member of our College and of our Association, viz., the work of City Missions. The present duties of this committee consist chiefly in devoting certain nights each week to the Newsboys' Home, an institution whose work is dear to the heart of our venerable President, Sir Daniel Wilson.

The tri-weekly visits to this Home have for their impelling motives four ends, as follows:—

1. The carrying on, in however slight a degree, of some educational work, *e. g.*, 10 or 15 minutes of practical instruction.
2. The entertainment of the boys by means of readings, music, stories and talks.
3. The use of such influences as will present higher ideals than those the boys at present possess, and as will assist them to realize that a grander life lies before them than they at present believe.
4. The use of such talks or readings, along with the others, as will present the simple story of the Cross.

These meetings are most enjoyable. The boys are bright and lively, but respectful and attentive; and all who have ever gone down express satisfaction, and feel it no lost time to try and help these boys to higher things. Besides this, other openings are presented to which the energy of University men might well be devoted, at least once or twice a month. These the City Mission Committee would like to enter, if they felt that a sufficient number of the students, and especially the active members of the Association, would be willing to help. What is desired is that all should know what is being done; and every effort would be greatly facilitated and encouraged, if those willing to devote a spare hour now and again to such work would only present themselves or make known their sympathy and willingness. For the guidance of such there might be mentioned the names of the Gen. Sec., H. B. Fraser, B.A.; the Convener, E. A. Henry, '93; the Sec. of Com., J. Menzies, '93, or in general any of the officers of the Association.

The latest thing in clubs is the Anti-Student Club, formed by the young ladies of Bethlehem, Pa. Its object is to ignore the frivolous flirting student of Lehigh, who does not mean business.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees of Columbia, a resolution was passed giving each professor a leave of absence once in every seven years on half-pay, such year to count as a year of service to the college.

An effort is being made to raise a subscription for the erection of a gymnasium at the University of Michigan, at Ann Arbor, Mich. This University has over 2,000 students, and as yet has no gymnasium. There is one consolation in knowing that there are other universities beside Toronto as badly off in this matter as we.

SCHOOL OF SCIENCE.

The Engineering Society held its first meeting for the Easter term on Tuesday, January 13, with a large attendance, Mr. Robinson, the president, presiding. Considerable business was disposed of, after which came the reading and discussion of papers. Mr. C. H. Mitchell read an excellent paper on "Earthworks on Highways," dealing with the details of construction, maintenance and protection of cuttings and embankments upon roads and railroads. The paper was very interesting as well as instructive. Prof. Galbraith, being present, was called upon by the president for a short descriptive lecture on the new "testing machine" which is being obtained for the Engineering Laboratory in connection with the School of Science. This machine is to be used for testing the strength of beams and bars of iron, wood, etc., for engineering purposes. He described the principles upon which the machine is built, and gave figures and dimensions which were quite startling. The machine can be made to break a beam of steel with a force of 100,000 pounds, yet the next moment will register that required to snap a silk thread. The Professor expects the testing machine to be sent shortly from Philadelphia, where it is being constructed. Being by far the best yet invented, and the first of its kind in Canada, the machine will be regarded as a valuable adjunct to the Engineering department.

Most of the men are now back after the holidays, and are settling down to the stern realities of student life again. The engineers are pleased to see Mr. A. R. Goldie, of Galt, again in their midst. It will be remembered that he was compelled to give up his year last Easter term on account of a severe attack of typhoid fever. He is now, however, completely recovered and is resuming work for this term.

During the holidays there have been some additions made to the Architectural department. The corridors of the "Draughting-room" wing are decorated with models of ancient architectural studies, and with a number of large framed photographs and engravings of modern buildings of architectural beauty.

Much anxiety is felt for Mr. Harold Rolph, '92, who is very ill at his home, Huron Street, with typhoid fever.

EXCHANGES.

Our table is covered with a large pile of exchanges, to all of whom we offer a hearty welcome. Among the number are several very fine Christmas numbers, to which we hope to make reference in future issues. The *Argosy*, *Owl*, *Tuftonian*, *Chronicle-Argonaut*, *Red and Blue*, *Brunonian* and *Swarthmore Phoenix*, publish excellent holiday numbers.

The *Practical Student*, from the Ohio Wesleyan University, has the following: "THE VARSITY comes to us with all the characteristics of the born Englishman, telling in the hearty English way all about college life in Her Majesty's Kingdom. If THE VARSITY be a fair representation of the college which she loves, we judge the college is alive to all that goes to make the fully developed man." We thank the *Practical Student* for its kind words; but we feel called upon mildly to protest that while we, as Canadians first, last and always, often congratulate ourselves that we are neither English nor Americans, we are always glad to think that we seem destined to have on either hand companions so agreeable.

Vassar's new gymnasium is the largest building in this country, which is used exclusively for the physical culture of women.

The lady students of Cornell are working to endow a ward in the Ithaca Hospital, which shall be open to students of the Cornell University.