

If this retrograde movement continues in the same proportion it will not be many years until the officers are elected by about half-a-dozen students. We will then have the ludicrous spectacle of five or six students running the affairs of a society which is supposed to represent the whole Arts college, and electing officers to collect the fee from the other two hundred odd students. Thus the society fails of its main object, and the financial weight still falls upon the shoulders of only a portion of the Arts students. Probably the most palpable reasons for this failure of the Arts Society are the largeness of the fee and the lack of prestige on the part of the society. And when we consider the circumstances under which it was formed we find other reasons. A few enthusiasts of the class of '92 first conceived the idea and it was almost entirely due to their efforts that it was carried into effect. By this we mean that at no period in its existence did the society have the hearty sympathy and co-operation of *all* the Arts students. This has always been a great drawback to the success of the society. We believe that the object of the society as laid in down the constitution is a good one but the society must have more life infused into it if it is to be a success. The constitution will admit of improvement and if the students would show a little more enthusiasm in this direction we might have an Arts Society which would compare favorably with the Æsculapian Society of the Medical College.

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Criticisms on the Library are always considered in order twice a year—in an early number of the JOURNAL and by the Arts' valedictory.

In spite of marked improvement in the past few years the semi-annual hint is still needed, and we never felt our want so keenly as when upon visiting a certain other College an "odious comparison" appeared and would not be put down.

It was a University which may fairly be ranked with Queen's, perhaps older and wealthier but not larger. The Library like our own was a well lighted circular wing with alcoves all around, but here the analogy ceases. The whole centre was open and set out with tables and chairs where the student might sit down and read in comfort those Reviews and high class Magazines which our Librarian *carefully places on file*. He had also perfect liberty to go over the shelves and choose for himself what he should read, or wandering idly might amuse himself among the rich and curious collection and inhale "virtue through the hem of their parchment and leather garments." To the scholar those dim recesses are a paradise, and mere physical contact with their treasures an inspiration. Here was Carlyle's one advantage in Werssrichtwo but, alas! sometimes even this is denied and the "christian youth" can look through the wires at the coveted classics but can get no nearer.

Six hours a day it was open and it was well patronized. There you found every type of student from the systematic compiler of facts and theories, so common in our colleges now-a-days, to the mere dilettante. The management was simple. The Librarian, spending no time hunting after books for each one did that for himself, had all his time for general oversight and keeping account of all books taken out. Deposits were exacted as with us. The catalogue was an ingenious but very simple system of cards arranged alphabetically in small drawers. In a moment you could find any book by author or subject or you could find all the books on any subject or all the works of any author. The catalogue had the further advantage that any number could use it at the same time, and was capable of infinite extension. There were many other excellencies but the chief feature was that everything was arranged for the *use of the books* and that, not for a few honour men or professors, but for everyone who wanted to read. Why can't we have some similar system at Queen's?

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The JOURNAL is only too glad to give the Queen's Rugby football team the praise which is their due, now that after seven years of hard work they have won the championship—first of Ontario and then of the Dominion. In the past Queen's has played good hard football, has never shirked a match, however slim her chances, and it is by her efforts as much as by those of any other club that Rugby football holds the high position in Ontario which it does to-day. By her determined though unsuccessful struggles against Ottawa College, she prevented the supremacy of that club becoming so absolute as to crush out all competition; and after the danger had ceased, old Queen's still held her place among the foremost. But though she showed so determined and so sportsmanlike a spirit, her lot had until this season been singularly unfortunate. In '88 Queen's defeated McGill and Montreal, but the early date at which the official season then closed afforded Ottawa College an excuse for refusing to accept the challenge which, in accordance with the system then in vogue, we had sent. In '89 Ottawa College twice defeated us by 9 to 11, in two matches which have become historic in football annals as examples of the better team being vanquished; and in '90, after reaching the finals, we suffered a most unexpected, though perfectly fair, defeat at the hands of Hamilton. This year, however, fortune has smiled on us, and after being pitted against the strongest teams of two provinces we have come out victorious.

Now that the glorious position has been reached, we hope that it will be retained. The chances for next year are good. Nearly all of this year's team have signified their intention of returning, there is plenty of good material to fill up any vacancies that