

a paper on "Synchronism." In the general section Toronto men secured two out of three prizes, but we were represented by G. W. Smith, who wrote "Notes on Reinforced Concrete."

The Martlet wishes to congratulate the prize-winners. It is indeed refreshing to find, even if defeated in athletics, we can hold our own in such minor matters as engineering work.

Correspondence

Montreal, Jan. 30, 1909.

To the Editor of The Martlet:

Dear Sir.—May I be permitted to call the attention of the Freshman and Sophomore classes to a subject which has been mentioned in your columns before, viz.: Public speaking. I would like to suggest the formation of clubs similar to the '10 Science and Debating Club, though in doing so I am, perhaps, touching on a point to which certain men will raise objections; however, a few words will serve as an explanation.

The Literary Society is worthy of the highest praise in this connection, but in it the Arts men have an advantage over students of other Faculties, because its work goes hand in hand with their regular studies. It is not so with the Science men, whose work lies in an entirely different direction. Although this is the case, Science graduates have as much need to be proficient in the art of public speaking as their academic brethren. As things stand, very few of the former feel like attempting to speak before the "Lit." unless they have had a start somewhere else. I must admit that I do not see why this should be the case, but the fact remains. The men of Science '10, realizing the difficulty, organized the club above mentioned, which has been of so great value to those who have taken a real interest in it.

If similar clubs were formed in each Freshman class as they enter college, it would prepare material for the "Lit.," just as the junior Rugby and hockey teams prepare material for the 'Varsity team. If this scheme were tried for a few years undoubtedly the result would

be that the Engineers of this University would acquire a still wider reputation than they at present possess.

One must not forget that a college is great, not only because it possesses finely equipped buildings and able professors, but also because of the number of successful graduates which go out from its walls; by the number of men who succeed in capturing the highest positions in their respective professions, and I ask you, Mr. Editor, who will deny that proficiency in public speaking is one of the greatest helps in this matter? The man who can make a speech can, *a fortiori*, talk to a banker and obtain from him the required credit for his enterprise; he can talk to the capitalist and interest him in advantageous investments, because he has the ability to express his ideas and thoughts in a striking manner, with conviction and without hesitation. In the future development of this great country of ours, the engineer has perhaps more to do than anybody else, and how is he fit to accomplish his work, how is he fit to fulfill his duty, if besides his knowledge of engineering he cannot express himself in public?

Another great feature of these clubs would be the fortnightly excursions to the different shops or power plants in the city. This has been worked so far most successfully by the Science '10 Club, and to mention the fact that not a single refusal has been met with from any firm proves that the men at the head of these concerns must consider the visits of some value. Indeed, when the student realizes all the work being accomplished in engineering, he is apt to consider his studies