

squandered. Again, the advertising account seems large, \$440.93, in addition to the printing account \$1,576.35. And here we might ask the person who distributes the advertisements, what possible use can there be in publishing the College calendar in a paper such as the *Public Health Magazine* whose circulation is extremely limited, and whose columns have been devoted more than once to attacks on the College? The remainder of the statement is satisfactory, and the resources of the College save in these one or two cases, seem to have been carefully expended.

We notice with pleasure the announcement, in the speech from the Throne, delivered on the 8th ult., in the House of Commons, that it is intended to bring in a bill to render the Geological Survey, hitherto carried on under temporary enactments, a distinct and permanent branch of the Civil Service. Legislation of this nature is always pleasing to notice. It evinces on the part of the government a desire for something more than that popularity gained by pandering to mere mercenary commercial exigencies, and it also shows that our rulers have a due and proper regard for this most necessary part of our Civil Service. By making the Survey a permanent institution, its efficiency and stability will be greatly increased; and of those reforms in the Civil Service, now talked of in political circles be carried out, in no case will they prove more beneficial than in the Geological Survey. The reform to which we refer particularly, is of course, the introduction of competitive examinations in assigning positions in the Service. More especially in scientific pursuits like the Survey, a man's political stripe and personal connections have to be left out of consideration, and appointments should be made by means of examinations which will test thoroughly the candidate's scientific attainments, experience and ability. If this projected bill becomes law and of course it will, unless press of work makes it share the fate of the "slaughtered innocents," it will give an impetus to scientific education, and thus directly benefit McGill which has the only Scientific School except the Military College, in Canada. McGill men will have something to look forward to, merit will be the criterion of appointment, not party connection, and a healthy tone will be given to this most important branch of exploration, which has of late not been quite so satisfactorily carried on as it might have been.

ALTHOUGH often a disagreeable and even painful task to read any thing that is at all dry, yet every one, when he has written an article answering to that description, is most anxious to have it read. This one is probably as dry as is the subject,—a subject, nevertheless, that has been much discussed and talked about, not only by the Board of editors, but also among University men in general. We refer to the establish-

ment of the *Gazette* as a permanent institution. Numerous plans and propositions have been, and are before us, regarding this important matter. A private letter received a short time ago from a prominent graduate of this city, mentioned a few points that he considered indispensable to success. That editors be elected by the students be general; that they be chosen from the senior classes; that all do not resign office at the close of one year; and that the paper be a semi-monthly. With regard to the first of these, viz: the election of editorial Boards, there is much to be said both *pro* and *con*. It ought to be an efficient means of creating a general interest in the paper, by making the students feel that its success is largely dependent on them, and on their choice of editors; unfortunately, experience teaches us differently. In many of the American colleges, the editors are selected by the Board of the previous year. Each Board passes out at Christmas; with regard to this, it would be obviously a successful plan for us to adopt. It would be well to have the retiring editors nominate their successors, and submit their choice to a general meeting of the students. Another very serious difficulty the *Gazette* has had to contend with, is that of keeping up its financial as well as its literary repute. The editors have hitherto had to provide not only copy, but also the necessary funds. Next year, it is proposed to obviate this by having a financial committee, thus allowing the editors proper to devote themselves entirely to the conduct of the paper. We hope, by these few remarks to draw forth the opinions of the students on this important matter, nor are we at all disinclined to listen to any advice our graduate friends may have to offer.

We have been informed by members of the Foot-ball Club who have been attempting to collect subscriptions to aid the fifteen to go to Toronto in the spring, that the students in general are very apathetic, and that many of them ask what *they* have to do with the Foot-ball Club that they should be solicited for a subscription. Let us give a few reasons why they should subscribe. The Club is very strong (in players) at present, and will therefore do credit to the College; and any student who cares anything for his *Alma Mater* should be glad to see her foremost in athletic sports even if he does not care for such things himself. Secondly, by keeping up a college institution, and one so deserving as the Foot-ball Club, you produce a kindly feeling among the students, and make your own stay here more pleasant to yourself, and if you have any pride, you will be glad to be able to say that you belong to a college which takes a high rank in athletic affairs. We grant that such reasons are not mathematically convincing. But we think little of any student who has the meanness to contemptuously refuse to deny himself one concert, one night at the