

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, JAN. 19TH, 1894

No. 6.

Queen's University Journal,

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during the Academic year.

ROBERT LAIRD, M.A., - Editor-in-Chief.
J. C. BROWN, B.A., - Assistant Editor.
A. B. FORD, M.A., - Managing Editor.
S. A. MITCHELL, M.A., - Business Manager.
R. F. CARMICHAEL, '96, - Asst. Business Manager.

The annual subscription is One Dollar, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 1109, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Business Manager.

THE new term has opened in good form and holiday recreation seems to have had the effect of oiling well the wheels of college life. A more generous spirit has taken possession of all, but besides this every one is manifesting a keener edge for work and disposing their time more systematically. Every student should beware of making this term a continual *grind* for reasons that are apparent. In the first place no one can afford to devote himself to a mechanical accumulation of knowledge at the cost of broken health. Again, the tendency to cram during the next few months is apt to enfeeble our grasp of the substance of our work and the true influence of the university, of which our class-work is an important channel, does not effect us in thought and life as it ought. * Then again we should never forget that one of the most educative elements in a college course is our contact with our fellow-students and the share we take in college institutions. But as work presses we are apt to grow exclusive and neglect this side. Many of the students are so familiar with views like these that they may seem superfluous here, but it is only by having our hard study constantly pervaded by a free and receptive spirit that we can develop the broadest culture.

* * *

College work was completely demoralized during the week before the holidays because of the departure of so many students to their homes. A number

also have taken the liberty of practicing the same idea at this end of the vacation and are quietly extending it beyond the regular limit. The date of the *conversazione* may have had something to do with this premature exodus and a change of date might be worthy of consideration, but the real cause lies in the students themselves. We admit that it is very exhilarating to the student who is dodging around the corridors to see a lonesome-looking professor greeting two or three of the faithful or even empty benches, but we maintain that this wholesale sloping is unfair to the professors, to those who go and to those who stay. Few of our lectures are given in the *ex cathedra* style where the student can come and go at will so long as he obtains a copy of the lectures, but personal contact of the professor with the students counts for a great deal with us and when a large portion of the class is absent the continuity and effectiveness of the work is seriously impaired. Any harsh movement of prevention on the part of the senate is to be strongly deprecated and would be contrary to the spirit of the university. Our freedom from the slavery of hard and fast rules is unique, when compared with that of many other colleges, and one of the greatest value, and we should not abuse the confidence that is placed in us. Another repetition of what occurred last term may make the question a serious one and we hope these words may be of value in keeping the students within rational bounds.

* * *

At the opening of the new medical buildings of McGill, Professor W. Osler, formerly of McGill and now of Johns Hopkins University, told some wholesome truths on what makes a university great. The Montreal people have been so accustomed to hear "this great university" referred to whenever a new benefaction was announced or a report made that one of the affiliated institutions had a slightly increased attendance of men and women or boys and girls, that it is not to be wondered at if they should now consider the standard of a university's greatness to be either money or numbers. Dr. Osler pointed out that the great function of a university is to think, and therefore that its great object should be to secure and to train thinkers. "Select for Professors," he said, "men who have ideas, with ambition and energy to put them into force. Men