

The Sir John A. Macdonald Chair of Political and Economic Science.

On the return to Canada from Europe of Sir Charles Tupper, the Principal sent him the circular regarding the endowment of the above Chair, and received a prompt reply, enclosing a handsome subscription with the promise that he would promote so important an object in any way in his power. The minimum sum required has been so nearly reached that subscriptions are being now collected for the Chair of Mental Philosophy. Subscriptions for either object will be acknowledged in the JOURNAL.

Personal.

Rev. J. K. Macmorine has presented a large collection of botanical specimens to the Herbarium of the University. It embraces many plants collected in Ontario, Manitoba, New York, Tennessee and elsewhere, and is a valuable addition to the Herbarium.

Mr G. W. Mason, one of our extra-mural students, now in attendance at the Ontario Normal College, Hamilton, was the successful candidate at the elections there on Jan. 20th, for the position of President of the Literary and Scientific Society.

Ladies' Column.

The Chair of Common Sense.

NOW that the *Conversazione* has come and gone, and all excitement, except that of the rink and hockey, is over, when we grow dizzy with the confusing whirl of work, and dismally whisper in awe-struck accents something about the "exam." and "nine weeks," now, I say, we begin to notice a great lack in our Alma Mater. Not even our enthusiasm over our successful hockey match can blind us to this one great fault. We most urgently need the endowment of a new chair—a professor of common sense.

No one, we are sure, will quarrel with our plan; we do not expect to hear a single dissenting voice, even when we declare that this should come before the new library, reading-rooms and Convocation Hall we so long for. No one will object—for the scheme will commend itself. We know, to all; we all know some one (or more) who would be so greatly benefited by a course under such a professor, and our generosity is such that (even though, of course, we have no need of his services ourselves) we would gladly help to establish his chair.

The only weak point that we can see, lies in the question, how to force all those who need it to take a course, or even a pass class, in the subject. For strange as it seems, it is nevertheless quite true, that all our friends are oddly oblivious of their own needs, and actually insinuate that *we* should take a class. The very idea!—but we will not go into personal questions; there is no need, for we have a plan all ready matured to meet the difficulty.

The professor should receive his salary like all the others, but his classes should be regulated altogether by the Alma Mater Society, or among the girls by the Levana. There should be no ticket marked "Common Sense" in the mysterious receptacles whence the Registrar draws those bits of cardboard—pink, blue, yellow, and nondescript—which bear with them so much woe. The secretaries of the Alma Mater and Levana should be supplied with sober brown squares, arranged thus:

Common Sense.

Student

Entered by

This explains the whole working of the plan. Any person who believes that any other person whatsoever, be he student, professor or outsider, would be the better of a class in this subject, may present the case to either of these societies. If, after due deliberation, it decides that the complaint is well founded, the secretary fills out this card with the names of both accused and accuser, or perhaps we should rather say of the student and benefactor. The card is given direct to the professor by the secretary, so that there is no chance of a recalcitrant "forgetting" to present his, or of practical jokes being played with forged ones. Once the name is entered on the professor's books, the attendance is compulsory till a passed certificate is granted, and is to be forced if necessary by the constables of the Concurus.

And now we can imagine the motley throng that would pour in on the societies. Here a student begs for a ticket for the professor who sets an essay every week; there a professor calls for a general one, to include all his class who have "sloped" or come "not prepared," or perhaps been late for eight o'clock class (remember, that after serious deliberation cases are not always sustained). Here stands a member of the JOURNAL staff offering to pay double fees for a certain editor of a city paper; there is the president of the Levana Society eager to have the girl students so instructed that they shall properly estimate the value of their society. Here are three or four football players calling for tickets for the athletic committee, and here is one of the committee carefully having them filled out for all the Rugby Team. There, some from each of the election parties, shouting themselves hoarse in their endeavors to gain entrance for all on the other sides; there, the President of Alma Mater tying up his neat-looking bundle of cards all marked "Freshman;" there, a freshman, announcing his benevolent intentions towards the officers of the Concurus, and—but surely that is enough for one class. It is easy to see that our professors will not be left to lecture to empty benches. Indeed the experiment seems likely to succeed only too well, for it looks as if there would be none left to roam about the corridors and smile in triumph to see the process go on. Can it be so? Must our wisest and best go in and sit meekly in the junior class among the freshmen? Surely not! Yet if it were so, it would be but one more reason for founding the chair as soon as possible. Who offers the first subscription?—the man who feels himself in need of the