

COLLEGE ITEMS.

L'INSTITUT ETHNOGRAPHIQUE has appointed Mr. W. H. Vandermissen, M.A., of University College, to be its Delegee Regional at Toronto, thus constituting him its representative for Ontario. Rev. Professor Campbell, M.A. (Tor.), is the representative in Montreal.

A. W. MARLENG, B.A., 79, has just returned from pursuing a theological course at Princeton, N.J. under the auspices of the Presbyterian Church of the United States, he will set out in the spring to enter the missionary field in Western Africa, near the equator.

THREE graduates of the class of '77 are studying the logic method. W. A. Hunter and R. W. Kennedy, after spending two years in Knox are studying now, the former in Union Theological Seminary, New York, the latter in the United Presbyterian College, Edinburgh. J. W. Bell is taking a complete theological course in Leipsic, Germany.

The Society has adopted a recommendation from a special committee to the effect that programmes of the public meetings be distributed five days previous to each meeting. The programmes will be placed in care of the janitor, and it is expected students will distribute them to their friends, so that the meetings may be better attended by the outside public than heretofore.

WM. McBRIDE, B.A., 79, is now prosecuting his classical studies at University College, London, England, and speaks in very high terms of the various classical professors, and of the interesting and thorough style of their teaching. The examinations there are held in June. They have such eminent men for examiners as Paley, Jevon, Darwin, Tyndall, etc. About 50 per cent. in arts are plucked each year, and in medicine, scarcely ever more than 4 per cent. pass. The fees for a full course of classical lectures are from \$250 to \$275.

The library of the University of Toronto is gradually increasing. In 1859, the number of volumes was 14,024. Every year since additions have been made, and now the figures stand 22,294. Last year 722 volumes were added, a larger number than that of any preceding year. The oldest book in the library is a copy of Dante, published in Venice in 1492. Another interesting volume is a manuscript of the sixteenth century, of Laurentius Valla, *Elegantia lingue Latine*. One proof of the usefulness of the library is found in the large number of our students who avail themselves of its privileges.

The Glee Club began practice on Monday last, with a membership of twenty. Mr. Collins, the instructor of last year's class, has been re-engaged and will, no doubt, give every satisfaction. After the distribution of the parts by him, it was apparent that the first tenors and second basses were not so strong as they should be, and additions to their number will be welcomed at the practice next Monday. The music to be taken up to embrace glees from the Orpheus series of 4 part songs, from which 'Soldiers Love' and 'Evening' he took Monday on Monday were selected. Though the conversation is not to be held, it is hoped that arrangements will be made, so that the club may appear at some of the public meetings of the society.

One of our students sends in the following:

Being detained in Cobourg Friday night, December 13th last, I found my way to a public meeting of the Student's Society of Victoria College held in Alumni Hall. An admission fee is charged by the Victorians at public meetings (one for 15c two for 25c). The programme is more varied than the one University College pleases to put before the

public, embracing music, a recitation, an essay and the debate: a glee club of about 12 voices had a wonderful effect in redeeming the entertainment from the dullness into which mere debating and reading essays throws an audience. Four lively pieces were sung by the club, and they were nearly all encored. Fifteen minutes is allowed to each speaker, and the speeches seem to have been prepared so as to occupy the prescribed time to a nicety. Some of the speakers had just gone through their remarks as the bell began to sound (for a bell in an unknown quarter of the room sounds the periods). The speaking was good, and in no respects inferior to what is heard at a public meeting in our own societies and sides are not lead by B.A. or M.A.'s, but by the students themselves. The attendance was nearly equal to the size of the hall, and I believe the number of ladies present was greater than the rest of the audience.

THE OBJECT OF COLLEGE TRAINING.

MEN of the fourth year, now that they are approaching graduation, are beginning to realize that life is before them. At least they are constantly being asked what have you been learning? and what are you going to do? Their position is thus depicted by a writer in the current number of the *Chronicle* (Ann Arbor):

Probably there are very few of us but during the last vacation were besieged by some superannuated aunt with numerous questions as to our purpose in attending college, our studies, and for what we were fitting ourselves, and probably very few satisfactory answers were given. If we answered that we had no profession in view, we were told that ours was a bad plan, that it was a bad policy to spend so much time in the acquirement of knowledge that would be useless to us.

The same writer answers these questions. He says men do not go to college to collect facts, nor do colleges profess to turn out specialists; they only send out men educated to right modes of thought, who through association with professors and teachers of distinction, are inspired toward noble aims, who being college-bred are all the better fitted for any vocation in life, and who are able to think, plan, and systematise, for themselves. As another writer in the same paper says it is mental discipline which is the most important result of college work. Neither of the writers in question forgets that many men do not come up to this standard, but this, they say, is mostly owing to the indolence of the student himself.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

A business meeting of this association was held on the evening of Saturday, the 17th inst, to discuss the draft of a constitution brought in from the general committee. As the main object of this association is not to wrangle about points of order, and pull their constitution to pieces, this business was transacted with comparatively little trouble, and the general committee's draft was adopted with a few amendments. Indeed, the only point on which there seemed to be much difference of opinion was whether the membership should be open only to graduates and under-graduates in the honor course in natural sciences, or whether it should include all who are interested in any way in the study of natural science in any of its branches. The meeting at which the association was established decided to limit the membership to the former, and this was recommended by the general committee; but by the vigorous efforts of a prominent natural

science man this decision was almost overturned. In fact his amendment was carried by a small majority, but, as an alleged ambiguity and vagueness in the wording was discovered only after it had been carried, a reconsideration was called for, and subsequent revelations decided the majority of the meeting to adopt the recommendation of the general committee.

Wednesday was recommended as the evening on which to hold the regular meetings of the association, to this was changed to Saturday.

The first ordinary meeting was held on Wednesday evening last, and after the preliminary business, Dr. Croft was called upon to preside. On taking the chair, he made a few remarks congratulating the association on its formation, and wishing it every success in its future career. He then proceeded to give a lecture on some recent discoveries in an old fellow student of his on the relations between the ancient dye known as Tyrian purple, indigo and uric acid, which after considerably the hitherto received opinions.

A paper was then read by Mr. R. F. Kuttan on the new process of imbedding in albuin. Mr. Kuttan had made preparations illustrative of the difficult steps in the process, which clearly showed the superiority of the imbedding mass over others hitherto employed. He explained very clearly two methods, one using both the white and yolk of the egg, and the other using only the white, and enumerated all the details of manipulation, which he had found by experiment to give the best results. The paper was an interesting and instructive one, and on taking his seat, the reader was applauded.

The last item on the programme was the reading of part of an article by Dr. Muir, on the subject of the elementary nature of the so-called elements by Mr. A. McGill.

A vote of thanks was tendered to Dr. Croft for his kindness in presiding over the first meeting of the association, for his interesting and valuable lecture, and for his words of encouragement and promise of support. The roll showed twenty-three members present. The programme of the next meeting on Saturday evening, the 31st inst., is a paper on Edison's discoveries, by Mr. G. G. S. Linsley; a paper on Fungi and Agriculture by Mr. G. H. Carveth, and a discussion on the basis of our knowledge of Geology and Paleontology to be introduced by Mr. A. B. Davidson.

TORONTO SCHOOL OF MEDICINE.

A case of nine first-class microscopes reached the school a short time ago. This is a step in the right direction, and means that this school is determined not to be out-done by any other medical institution in the Dominion. Every one knows the immense value a good microscope in the examination of the minute organisms of nature. It is decidedly of more importance to the pathologist in his studies on diseased states.

Mr. H. Montgomery, M.A., was appointed by the Faculty as lecturer on Botany and Zoology, a position which he has very successfully filled during the present session.

The final class this year is large, and promises to be one of more than average standing, and contains many who intend competing for the medals.

The following gentlemen, who are either graduates or undergraduates in arts, are attending medical lectures: P. H. Bryce, M.A., H. W. Aikins, B.A., W. Fletcher, M.A., H. Montgomery, M.A., A. Davidson, S. J. Dolsen, and J. Ferguson. This certainly speaks well for the estimation in which this school is held by the members of another and distinguished educational centre.

The good effects of the new curriculum are being felt. It tends to do away largely with so much didactic teaching; and imports far more of the practical and clinical system. I hope the Senate may still further improve in this direction.