

over-matched by the superior science of their opponents. Queen's forward game was irreproachable, but the backs proved weak. This was the last important game of the season.

The Alma Mater Society has been in a more flourishing condition than for several years past. The entertainments held were not as successful as they might have been, but the regular weekly meetings were well attended and much interest taken in the debates. We look for a very marked improvement in the Alma Mater next session.

The Glee Club has been conducted much more quietly than in previous sessions, but it has been doing a good work nevertheless. It appeared in public upon a few especial occasions, being warmly received by the citizens. The private practices and re-unions were very successful and enjoyable.

The Missionary Association and Y.M.C.A., being under the immediate superintendence of the students of Divinity Hall, have been perhaps the most flourishing of all the College Societies. The membership rolls were large, and the work done has given the highest satisfaction, both to the students and to the citizens of Kingston.

The ancient and venerable *Concursus Iniquitatis* has had the hardest time of all. At first, its officers were somewhat lax in the performance of their duties, and the result was that so many of the freshmen stayed from the paths of rectitude that it was considered necessary to bring them back by wholesale. This wholesale plan was a hitherto untried experiment, and proved decidedly unsuccessful. The affair is of such recent occurrence that we need not particularize. It is to be hoped that those who have charge of this really beneficial institution next session will exercise a little more discretion.

Of the other College Societies, some have been quietly working their way along, others have practically dropped out of existence.

We might again call attention to the fact that the Athletic Association should take some action regarding its annual games, which have long since been regarded as an altogether useless institution. As regards the class work done, we need say nothing. The examination papers published in the Calendar, and the list of passmen, which we give elsewhere, speak for themselves. Upon the whole, the session of 1884-85 has been thoroughly satisfactory to all concerned.

CHARLES DICKENS.

EDUCATION is a very wide term, admitting of various definitions. Generally speaking, we mean by a self-educated man one who has not had the advantages of a school or college training. In this sense Charles Dickens was a self-educated man. If, however, we understand by education preparation for the work one has to do in life, the great novelist was indebted to circumstances for an education upon which it would have been difficult to improve. His father was a civil service official, stationed, at the time Charles was born, (1812) at Portsmouth, but afterwards at Chatham and later at London,—a man fitted for his calling, but for nothing beyond, one of those good tempered and unpractical individuals whom nature never intended to have charge of a family. His mother had more energy, but was unable to put her scheming into effect, and when our hero was nine years old we find the family in abject poverty. As a consequence, the boy was sent out to earn a living, and for two years he was engaged in pasting labels on blacking pots at six shillings a week. Most uncongenial labor this, for a precocious boy who had already perused many books, and whose aim in life was to be a great author. He felt his position keenly and even in after life was wont to weep as he thought over his early humiliation. And yet he was now in attendance at a better