

usually large freshman class this year." We are pleased to read this avowal, which proves conclusively that the colleges would succeed better as they now are, and if college attendance is a proof of success, we may inform our University College friends that Queen's freshmen list is this year the largest yet attained.

KINGSTON, as a university city, holds out to the student advantages which a larger city cannot offer. These, however, are almost counterbalanced by the unfavorable position in which our students are placed, in not being permitted to hear the famous orators and popular lecturers of the day. We have, no doubt, been permitted to hear, in Convocation Hall, many of the leading ministers of the different evangelical denominations in Canada, and have in this respect enjoyed privileges unsurpassed by any Canadian university or even theological college. But these were celebrated divines; of renowned secular orators we have heard but few. The cause is apparent to all. Lecturers, as a rule, value their time and service highly, and cannot risk coming to a small city where the audiences, and of course the pecuniary inducements, are proportionately small. The result, we believe, is equally obvious. Oratory with us is at a low ebb. This we attribute, to some extent, to the few opportunities afforded us of hearing great men. Of course, listening to an eloquent declamation, does not necessarily make a man an orator; but it ought to inspire in him at least some taste for oratory, it ought to foster such a taste when created, and furnish many invaluable hints in course of its pursuit. Moreover, this is but one feature of the question. Perhaps not one in a dozen attends popular lectures with the view of improving his speaking powers. Everyone, let us hope, goes for information. We are now happy to state that Kingston

and the students are no longer to be kept under disadvantageous circumstances. Through the thoughtfulness and energy of Principal Grant, a lecture club, composed of leading citizens, has been formed. The objects of this club are to choose suitable lecturers, to conduct arrangements for their visiting the city, and to guarantee them against loss. We understand the club is negotiating with the leading lecturers of the United States and others with the view of securing their services for the winter. Let us hope immediate results will accrue from these men being amongst us, and that an increased attendance at the Alma Mater Society, Queen's nursery of oratory, will be the spontaneous outcome.

THE peculiar excellence of a college course does not lie mainly in the number of books prescribed, nor in the number or quality of the students. No doubt good text books and strong competition are powerful stimulants to study, but a college may have a good course of study laid down in the calendar, and students of a high mental order in the class rooms, and yet may not furnish a single student with a good education. The essential requisite for thorough training is the personal influence, direct or indirect of the professors. Any thing which tends to do away with or lessen this influence, tends to do away with or lessen the value of the course. It is consequently wise to exact attendance upon all the classes. It is also wise to insist upon a four years' course for B.A. But quite a number of matriculants are wont to stay at their own High School or Institute for a year after matriculation, and come to college only at the beginning of their second year, thus practically reducing their course to three years. It may be true that a few such cases are inevitable, but their number should be reduced to a minimum. It is