

information which is most important to a student is omitted, viz., the dates of his pass examinations. It would entail no extra labor on the Senate to publish this important item of information in the calendar, and it would relieve the students of much anxiety.

MAC.

PROGRAMME FOR THE FINALS.

To the Editor of the Journal :

WOULD it be in accordance with correct views of education and especially of the purpose served by examinations that the programme of the finals should be made public two or three weeks in advance? Evidently, a good many students think that it would. With submission, I think that it would not, and it is just as well to look at the subject from the different points of view. What are the subjects taught in a University course? Not so much those that are of immediate practical utility, but those that are the best mental gymnastics. It is considered to be of far greater consequence to train the mind, so that it may work upon any subject forever after with precision, vigour and clearness, than to give it a number of facts that are of merely technical or professional value. How shall the student get the greatest possible good then from the subjects he studies? By the amount of mental exercise he receives. By the formation of the best habits of studying, thinking and expressing himself. In order to acquire these habits he must learn the fundamental facts of each subject and their underlying principles, and he must make these so completely his own that they shall constitute part of his mental furniture. In this process the great enemy to be avoided is cram, or overloading the memory with mere facts or formulas with the intention of unloading whenever the immediate object has been served.

Now, what would be the result of announcing two or three weeks beforehand the order in which the examinations are to take place? Simply, an encouragement to cram. There are some men whose capacities for cram are prodigious. In a fortnight, with the aid of notes, digests, an appreciation of the examiner's strength and weakness, and a good memory, they could manage to "make a pass" on almost any subject. They would waste the whole session, and leave college with a reputation for quickness which some mistake for intellectual ability, and yet be really as ignorant as when they entered. Such men have missed the whole object of college life. They have grown in nothing but self-delusion and conceit. The fewer of that class who get degrees the better for the reputation of the university.

The present system of examinations is intended to guard against those evils, and to ascertain as accurately as possible which of the students have profited most by the work of the session. The monthly examinations are intended to oblige men to call a halt occasionally, to review their work so far, and to get themselves in a condition to summarize it readily and accurately. The man who cannot pass the monthlies is warned in time. The man who pass-

esthem well is sure of his ground when the 'dies irae dies illa' comes upon him in April. To go to the monthlies inspired by the hope of getting a book is childish. The true student has infinitely better reasons for not evading one of them. Having methodized his work from time to time, having passed it through his mind until it has become an abiding possession, he is not taken at unawares. Thereafter, in the great college of the world, he will not usually get a fortnight's notice when called upon to speak or act, or in any way to bring out the best that is in him.

Formerly, nearly a week was allowed to intervene in Queen's between lectures and final examinations. This was a mistake, for it tended in the wrong direction to which attention has been called in this communication. In this year's calendar, what I conceive to be the true system is announced. Lectures cease on Friday and examinations on the whole course begin on the following Monday. This is the method of the great British Universities. So far as honour students are concerned, they do not know till the moment they enter the hall, on what subject they are to be examined. It is felt that honour men should be "ready, aye, ready," It is expected that students come to college, not to have "a good time," but to study, and to study from the beginning to the end of the session. That by no means excludes amusements and athletics. The best students find it necessary to take their share of both.

ANTI-CRAM,

QUID REFERT ?

"THEY had lived and loved, and walked and worked in their own way, and the world went by them. Between them and it a great gulf was fixed; it cared nothing for them, and they met its every catastrophe with the *Quid Refert?* of the philosophers."

DE LA ROGUE

What care we for the winter weather,—

What care we for set of sun,—

We, who have wrought and thought together,

And know our work well done ?

What do we care though glad stars glitter

For others only ? Though mist and rain

Be o'er our heads ? Though life be bitter,

And peace be pledged to pain ?

What care we ? Is the world worth minding,—

The sad, mad world with its hate and sin ?

Is the key worth seeking for, or finding,

Of the Cretan maze we wander in ?

What care we though all be a riddle,—

Both sea and shore, both earth and skies ?

Let others read it ! We walk that middle,

Unquestioning way where safety lies,

And care not any for winter weather,

And care no more for set of sun,—

We who have wrought and thought together,

And know our work well done !

GEO. F. CAMERON, '86.

It is well known that the Salvation Army does not wish to allow any into its meetings, except non-church-goers and people of the lowest class. The nicety of their discrimination was shown the other evening, when two of our Juniors were refused admission, but as they turned away they had the pleasure of seeing two seniors readily admitted. We draw no comparison, for 'comparisons are odious.'