

Then the chief feature of the programme was reached when Mr. Geo. Bates, of the Wesleyan College, was asked to open the debate. The subject was : "Resolved, that hereditary influences are more potent in a man's life than physical environment." Mr. Bates is an agreeable speaker, and dealt with the subject-proper in a clear and forcible style, and seemed to feel his responsibility in handling so important a subject. He wished to impress upon the audience the importance of the question under debate ; he said that it ought to be discussed from a practical rather than a scientific standpoint, since the issues involved were not only physical, but also mental and moral.

He then proceeded to take up the subject more particularly. What is physical environment ? The answer was : Anything which affects man through any one of the five physical senses ; hence a man's home, his social and business relations were truly physical environments ; for, on account of these, a man's tendencies are directed along certain lines. Yet do they exert over him as strong an influence as they would if these tendencies were inherited ? No ; for circumstances act upon the real man just as the wind does upon the waters of a deep river—it affects the surface only, and makes it seem, as the case may be, as if the current was reversed, while underneath, the great mass of water makes steady and unmistakable progress ; so circumstances affect, so to speak, the surface of man's nature, but beneath, with no retreating ebb, is the mighty tide of his inherited tendencies. His innate qualities of heart and mind will determine what circumstances will do for a man. In closing, the speaker referred to Sir Wm. Turner's opinion that we inherit not only habits but principles as well, which are only developed by environment.

The cause of the negative was then taken up by Mr. J. T. Scrimger, B.A., of the Presbyterian College. This speaker was full of his subject to overflowing, violating once or twice the rules of precision, in his eagerness to make points.

He began by defining physical environment as those cir-