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Editorials.

MOCK PARLIAMENT.

WE hear again some discussion of a mock parliament. That such a subject comes up almost every session denotes that many of the students recognize the value of practise in debating, and are anxious to perfect themselves in that art. While the meetings of the A. M. S. afford the men a first-class opportunity of informing themselves as to parliamentary procedure, yet it is rightly felt that the discussions of matters affecting the interests and prosperity of that society should be carried on in a more serious and thoughtful way than is generally done in a mock-parliament. The latter has a place for impromptu speaking; and no interest is affected by the division on the question discussed. If the matters dealt with by the A. M. S. were not carefully considered before they are brought up, they would not come to as rational an issue as they now do; and as they are carefully considered beforehand, there is small room for debate. Now, it is evidently felt that set debates, either in year meetings or in the Political Science Club or before the A. M. S., do not altogether meet the requirements of the case as regards the training of men in the art of expressing their thoughts clearly, definitely and in as right form as possible. The ideal mock parliament would meet those requirements; but we believe it has been clearly enough proved that its machinery is too cumbersome and our time too fully occupied already to make such a feature possible in Queen's. But there is another sort of debate that might be tried, and perhaps as successfully as in some American and English colleges. This debates involves two leaders, each with a following of, say, ten men. The leaders have five minutes each, and generally speak last. Their colleagues are allowed two minutes each, and may speak in any order, and upon any point affecting the matters at issue, which should be some subject of public interest. The arguments are weighed by three judges. The whole debate would thus occupy about an hour, twenty-two men instead of four have taken part in it, each man have had time enough to make his point clear. It teaches the debaters the art of saying much in small compass, and the