

which has characterized the city of Ottawa of late years. One of the strongest and most vigorous county associations of Toronto graduates meets in that city. But an organization of a more active and important character has just been formed there. It is a *Mathematical Society*, of which the President is Mr. J. McDougall, '59, now Auditor-General of Canada, and the secretary Mr. W. F. King, '75, now Inspector of Surveys. Among the membership we notice Messrs. Wm. Scott, F. Hayter, A. K. Blackadar, J. C. Glasahan, and the Baldersons, Sr. and Jr. The Society meets every fortnight in the rooms of Captain DeVille, Surveyor-General. It is to be hoped that the example of Ottawa will be followed by our graduates in other cities. There is no special virtue in graduate societies, but what is wanted is that an initiative impulse should be given by university men to all kinds of intellectual movements in our cities, towns and villages.

To shew that we are not unreasonable in our demand that something should be done to afford the undergraduates of our University intellectual nutriment outside of their regular lectures, we can quote, amongst numerous others, the example of Cornell. A recent news-note in an exchange states that the authorities of that institution have engaged five distinguished non-resident engineers to lecture before the students during the coming year. The names of these gentlemen are: Dr. E. P. Leavitt, Jr., Dr. R. W. Raymond—both Past Presidents of the American Society of Mechanical Engineers; Charles T. Porter, the pioneer in the introduction of the modern "high-speed" steam engine; Charles E. Emery, a naval engineer, and well known and connected with the great steam-heating system of New York City; and Mr. J. C. Hoadley, of Boston, an expert in steam engineering. This entire course of lectures is altogether supplementary to the regular work of the University, and the benefit to the students who will listen to them is simply incalculable. This is not the only department in which Cornell shows an example eminently worthy of being followed by Toronto.

While we cannot too highly praise the attempt of the Modern Language Club to make its meetings more useful to its members, there is one matter, in connection with the essays, of great importance. If the club would fulfil its highest aims, it must seek to go beyond giving information for the purposes of examination on the work laid down in the curriculum. The highest aim of such a Society is to foster the love of literature for its own sake. There is a danger in the preparation of papers that, owing perhaps to lack of time, the essayist may resort to reviews or essays of acknowledged critics. There is also another reason. A student, naturally enough, does not care to give his own opinion upon a work of art *ex cathedra*. The desire to offer a correct judgment is too strong to be resisted if his paper is subject to criticism. But this is the very mistake the danger of which we desire to emphasize. Better, far better, that he should make a hundred mistakes, and learn by experience to form for himself the best opinion, than remain in leading-strings all his days, and never learn the use of his own faculties. Taste in literature is like the common faculty of taste. The judgment, like the palate, only attains to fine discrimination by the exercise of its special function. Let us, then, have original essays, and thus give growing room to the mind in the only way in which it can ever become strong.

EVERY lover of decency and order will regret the unseemly conduct of certain individuals at the public meeting of the Literary Society, in Convocation Hall, on Friday evening a week since. Few persons object to a moderate degree of jocularly before the entertainment begins or between the parts, but interruptions of the chairman or the speakers cannot be tolerated. It is a shame that four or five ill-mannered fellows should be allowed to terrorize it over the Society in such a fashion. They come to the meetings with no good intention. They have

never done anything for the Society in its ordinary meetings. Why, then, should they be permitted to insult the chairman and the audience by such outrageous and boorish misconduct? The members of the Society invite their citizen friends to a literary entertainment, and they find it more like a bear garden. It is becoming a poor compliment to any distinguished gentleman to ask him to preside at these meetings. The College Council, we hear, has threatened to deny the use of the hall to the Society if a reform is not soon made, and no one could blame them if they did so. It is time for the Society to take the matter vigorously in hand. We have the names of the principal offenders, and it may be necessary in the interests of public order to publish them in case of a repetition of the offence. Two of these individuals gained a bad eminence in a similar way last year, and they should be most summarily dealt with if they persist in their attempts to turn these meetings into a carnival of folly. It is alleged that another of the offenders affects literature and culture and such things, but we are sorry for the cause which has such disciples.

## Leading Articles.

### MATRICULATION SCHOLARSHIPS.

LAST week we stated some unanswerable objections to the attempt that is being made to convert state funds, now in trust for the purposes of higher education, into bonuses to induce students to enter Toronto University. The subject is one which merits further discussion.

Is it not enough for young Canadians that the state provides free education for them, but must they also, forsooth, be hired or bribed with public funds to avail themselves of it? No better plan could be instituted to pauperize the intellect and destroy the self-respect of the youth of this country. It is, moreover, an uncalled-for and therefore an unjustifiable expenditure of public money.

Among the other evils of a system of matriculation scholarships, is the unhealthy and insane rivalry which it creates between high schools. This has led, in a measure, to the demoralization of both teachers and scholars in these institutions. No subject is approached in the proper scientific attitude of the searcher for truth. Little attempt is made to induce students to solve a problem or absorb a poem simply for the sake of mental cultivation and pure intellectual delight. Alas, it is not truth nor cultivation nor intellectual pleasure that is sought after; the petty and mercenary motive of scholarships determines the methods and matter of study. So far has this evil gone that certain high school masters have acquired a doubtful kind of reputation for "running" students for scholarships. Shades of Socrates! and this is called education!

There is another side to the question. We stated last week that the money which it is proposed to devote to the formation of a scholarship fund is urgently needed elsewhere. Here is one fact for the Vice-Chancellor and the members of the Senate to ponder over. The subjects of French and English are entirely in charge of two lecturers, each of whom receives only the paltry allowance of \$1,000 for his services. The professorships, however, command upwards of three thousand dollars. The duties in the latter case are neither more important nor more ably discharged than in the former. There must, then, be something seriously wrong here. It is not that the professors receive too much, but that the lecturers receive too little. There is no escape from the conclusion that if the latter gentlemen perform the duties of their position (and no one doubts that they do), then their recompense is altogether inadequate.

It has been said hitherto that there were no funds to apply to the increase of these salaries. This excuse will avail no longer. Common sense and common justice require that the money which it is