

speech—be acquired, save by practice. Among the ancients famous in oratory, we know by what a toilsome path Demosthenes climbed to excellence. Nearly every man of modern times, who has been eminent in the forum, the senate, or the pulpit, made his earlier essays upon the floor of a debating club. History tells us of the melancholy failure of Curran's first attempts, but history tells us also, how by patience he became the most brilliant and successful of Irish advocates. Fox achieved an unrivalled pre-eminence as the most dexterous debater of his or any age, only after incessant cultivation. The early discomfitures of Sheridan and Disraeli, as well as their ultimate and lasting successes are familiar to all.

None among us can ever hope to equal triumphs so pronounced, but their citation serves to show that, to the attainment of any degree of proficiency in this art, practice is essential. Nor is a mere glibness of speech, the only resultant from such cultivation of our powers—an end which many may despise. Accurate speaking pre-supposes accurate thinking. The clear conception and orderly arrangement of ideas are conditions precedent to their lucid exposition. From practice in debating, therefore, we derive the solid benefit of accurate habits of thought, besides acquiring a mastery of the mechanism of speech.

The Senate have gracefully placed the Natural History Class room at the service of the Alma Mater Society. It is heated and lighted by them, so that nothing remains undone which can contribute to the comfort of students attending. From the great anxiety displayed at the recent elections we augur a growing interest in the ordinary operations of the Society.

THE Principal wishes Queen's University to be a real University, not a mere Arts College with a Divinity School annexed.

The idea of having a number of Colleges or faculties clustering around a common Alma Mater seems an excellent one. With this end in view, the defunct Law Faculty has been revived—members of the local bar taking the professorships. Now we entertain serious misgivings as to the need, and therefore, as to the success, of this movement in Kingston, at the present time.

It is known to most of our readers that an entrant of the Law Society, who does not possess a University degree, must, before admission, study five years in the office of a practicing attorney. On the other hand, a graduate probation, whether he be of Arts or Law, is limited to three years. Considered therefore as a means of shortening the period of pupilage, the degrees of B.A. and LL.B., stand upon an equal footing. After graduation, the Bachelor of Arts is quite as advantageously situated to begin his legal studies, as far as the term of study is concerned, as is the Bachelor of Laws. The latter, it is true, has an apparent advantage in his knowledge of a few elementary principles, picked up while attending the law lectures, but the former has a real superiority in possessing a sound liberal education, the best base upon which to rear the fabric of special scientific knowledge. We believe then, that it will be wisest for students to devote four years, exclusively to the subjects laid down in the Arts curriculum.

Those who have the legal profession in view, will be initiated soon enough into its dry, cramping technicalities. Let them, during their College course, strive to acquire a taste for literature and philosophy, the pursuit of which, in after years, will prove an agreeable diversion from their legal studies, and do much to widen their sympathies and counteract the narrowing tendency of professional drudgery. This, we think, is the view which most aspirants to the Bar, at Queen's, will take. If this be so, the