

THE speaking in the Alma Mater Society shows a marked improvement over that of last year. Every debate furnishes some well prepared and finished speeches, and the members seem to be awaking to a knowledge of the fact, that if they are ever to be fluent speakers, there is no time like their college days to prepare themselves.

IN our account of the opening of the session in last number, a mistake was made in the condensed report of the Principal's remarks. What he did say was to the following effect: "Three years ago—at the instance of the University Council—I asked not only for new buildings with improved equipment of the Laboratories, Museum and Library, but also for two additional Professors and two assistants. We are occupying the new buildings. The two assistants have been appointed. But we have still to look for the two additional Professors. Until the state of the college finances warrants the appointment of two new members to the Senate, we are not in a position to do our work as it ought to be done. Doubtless, in due time, the money will be forthcoming, &c., &c."

This is altogether different from saying that "two additional Professors have been appointed." Professor Fletcher, of course fills the Chair that had been so worthily filled by Professor Mackerras, and consequently does not add to the number of the Senate.

The two professorships imperatively required are, (1) One at least in Arts, and (2) one at least in Theology. In Arts it is simply impossible that one man can long continue to teach both Mathematics and Chemistry, as they have now to be taught in Queen's, without breaking down in health. In Theology the third Chair was declared indispensable by the Synod thirteen years ago. In McGill there are several Chairs,

each of which bears a founder's name. *We have not one so endowed in Queen's.* Which of the friends of Queen's will be the first to immortalize himself, and earn the gratitude of a thousand generations? The time has surely come to respond to the Principal's appeal.

NOW that the affairs of the Royal Military College of Canada are undergoing discussion by the press and public, we take the opportunity of saying what we have long felt, that the course of instruction given at this institution is not what is most needed for the welfare of the military force of this country. The college is now little more than a good boarding school, where boys are grounded in the branches of higher mathematics, physics and modern languages, and the different branches of military science, which are almost wholly unnecessary for the militia of Canada, at an annual expense to the country of something like forty thousand dollars.

These things are good in their way and the professors are eminently capable of teaching their several subjects; but that such a course of study qualifies a man to be a good militia officer we emphatically deny. And what is the *raison d'être* of the college, if it is not to turn out good militiamen? Again, a large majority of cadets never leave the ranks during the whole four years of their course, and we deny that these are as proficient in the drill and internal economy of a battalion as ought to be expected in graduates of a Military College; they have little or no chance to instruct either a battalion or a company, but a large proportion of their time is devoted to applied mathematics, mechanics and chemical physics, and the four cadets most proficient in these branches are annually drafted off into the British army. If Britain were without a regular army, and someone should propose