

WE have an organization for mutual benefit and improvement known as the Athenæum Society. It is supposed that every member of the college will identify himself with it at as early a date as possible after coming here. It is of the utmost importance that all should do so, as you will find when you go abroad to fight the world that book-learning alone is not sufficient. It will not speak for you in a hand-to-hand argument. It will not give you any practise nor cultivation in public speaking. It is just as indispensable for one to know how to express his thoughts as it is for him to know how to think. If you cannot express yourself intelligently before an audience your knowledge will be a burden to you, as you will possess the desire to air your views and at the same time be conscious of your inability to do so. How is this to be overcome? By availing yourself of all the advantages within your reach. When you go out into the world you will be expected to hold your own in any discussion of the live questions of the day, and if you have not made the start in this direction beforehand, you will find that the average rustic is more than a match for you, and the sense of your inability to cope with him will cause you to remain silent. It is a deplorable fact that too many of the members of the society do not regard this matter in the proper light. They attend night after night as they would any place of pleasure, and if the necessary amount of amusement or fun is not furnished come away complaining that the meeting was dull, and altogether they had a very poor time. When the preliminary part of the programme has been gone through and the subject for debate is announced the effect is electrical. The disinterested and careless portion of the meeting make a bold dash for the door and we see no more of them for that night, because the rest of the performance is too dry for them. But the strangest part in the whole affair is that they are the ones who need that particular part of the exercise most. Are all the students of the College members of the society? If not they should avail themselves of the earliest opportunity to join,—which will be next Friday evening at 7 o'clock. Every student should identify himself with the society and then feel that a certain responsibility rests upon him for the success of its meetings. If they are not interesting let him feel that he has withheld something that would tend to its prosperity.

In connection with the Athenæum Society is the Reading Room. Each member has access to the papers, periodicals, magazines, &c., free of charge. Those who do not thus belong are supposed to pay a fee for the enjoyment of the same privileges. If a man presumes to take advantage of these favours in any way other than that stipulated in the Constitution he is doing what he has no right to do. The care of the room is in charge of a person paid for that purpose, but too often he is paid to carry the papers from the post office not to care for it. The magazines &c., are thrown upon the table for a limited time to be read by all. Then the man who buys the paper is to have the use of it as it becomes his property. We will here venture a statement that not more than one half of the papers—i.e., those known as table papers—ever find their way to the purchasers. So long as this state of things is permitted something is radically wrong, either we have among us those who appropriate property that does not belong to them or the official in charge is not doing his duty. It is to be hoped that all the students will manifest greater pride in this important direction and that every one will feel it incumbent upon himself to enforce a right regard for the property of their society. More might be said on this point, but we know that a word to the wise is sufficient.

WE much regret that the ATHENÆUM pages of this year have not more fully represented the old students. They form a large number of our subscribers, and the ties which bind them to the students of their college days are numerous and strong. The friendships formed at old Acadia are not soon forgotten and we believe that the interests of our subscribers would be quickened if fuller personal news could be obtained of all the old students. Where class secretaries exist, the means for the editors receiving interesting personals is we think good and worthy of fuller exercise.

Another subject deserves mention. During this year contributed articles have registered zero. The editors try to represent the present students and college from a student's standpoint. They gather what inspiration they can from present experience and past history. But we feel the need of more articles contributed by the old time students who have watched the progress of the college for some