

SOCIETIES.

Want of space has hitherto prevented us from recording the doings of the Junior Debating Society, but we now gladly seize the opportunity of making amends for the past. Greater interest than ever is being shown in this society this year, a fact we are pleased to note, for it assures us that its members will, in the future, be able to sustain the present high standard of the senior society. The society is to be congratulated on securing the services of Rev. W. Smith as Director, for his popularity and experience as professor of English in the college make him eminently fitted to prepare the juniors for the heavier work of the senior society. The other officers are energetic and well qualified to improve the standard of the society. They are

President.....S. J. Hallissey.
Secretary.....A. E. Bourke.

Committee {J. S. Murphy.
 W. Leonard.
 G. Baker.
 W. Fagan.
 J. Lonregan.

The first debate was: Resolved, "That Capital Punishment should be Abolished." J. Murphy and J. Rigney supported the affirmative, and S. J. Hallissey and W. Fagan, the negative. The debating was sharp and to the point, Mr. Murphy arguing "that if one animal, for instance a horse, kills another, the offender is not executed, but on the contrary is punished by increased toil," concluded that similar treatment would be the more sensible punishment for rational criminals. Though the negative was strongly upheld, the decision favored the affirmative.

The subject of the second debate was "Whether poverty or riches best develop character." A. E. Bourke and Geo. McCrea thought that poverty was best suited for developing character, but the society thought otherwise after listening to the remarks of J. E. Ryan and T. O'Brien. On the following evening the question was: Resolved, that "The Ancients were superior to the Moderns." E. Cornell and G. Baker defended the affirmative, but after an interesting discussion, the decision favored the arguments of Jno. McDermott and C. Sparrow of the negative.

SENIOR DEBATING SOCIETY.

On account of the examinations, but

three meetings have been held since our last issue. The first was: Resolved, that "The theatre is detrimental to morality." Affirmative, M. F. Fitzpatrick and I. French; negative, J. C. Moriarty and Jno. McNally. The debate was one of the best of the year, and was decided in favor of the negative. At the next session, H. J. Canning and C. J. Mea argued that "The University course should not be shortened," against the affirmative of J. P. Smith and W. Cavannagh. Many sound arguments were brought forward on each side, but the vote went with Messrs. Canning and Mea.

The subject of the last debate was, "Resolved that the Confederation of the United States is not destined to last." On the affirmative were T. A. Troy and S. J. Kehoe, while J. P. Collins and M. Powers defended the negative. The debate proved more than usually interesting, as was evidenced by the number of speakers who rose from the house. All showed themselves well acquainted with the resources, politics and Government of the neighboring Republic. The vote of the society went with the negative. We were much pleased with the presence of Rev. Father McGuckin, Rector of the University, and Rev. Fr. Gascon, an old member of our society, who has just been raised to the dignity of the priesthood. There is no doubt that their presence infused much more than the usual spirit into the debate, and the society takes this opportunity of cordially inviting them and the other gentlemen of the faculty to visit us whenever the opportunity offers. We also noticed with pleasure that the attendance was much larger than usual, and hope to see this continue for the future.

THE FRENCH DEBATING SOCIETY.

The patriotic subject chosen for the last discussion of this society drew a large audience. It read as follows: "Is l'évis superior to Montcalm?" Messrs. Masson and Tétreau defended the affirmative. The former showed, both by his statements and his delivery, that he had mastered his subject. Mr. Tétreau made an able second. Scarce less can be said of Messrs. Charbonneau and Gagnon, who upheld Montcalm, the old French capital's last defender. Many of the members present then enthusiastically pronounced themselves for the one or the other of the two heroes.