

THE COLLEGE GIRL

MISS M. L. McDARRY, Superintending Editor.



IT is a most extraordinary thing. I sat down with the intention of offering a choice selection of "news" to the world in general, and the College Girl in particular, but for the life of me I can't think of anything "newsy"—at least at the present moment. The only thing I can think about is "having nothing to say."

There may have been a good many funny things said about this same deplorable state of feeling in which I now find myself, by people who are blunt enough to acknowledge that, despite the undeniable fact that they really—on occasions, don't you know—are tolerably well-versed in a few "ologisms," they have, nevertheless, known times when they have not had a word to say. They have, in unexpected cases of emergencies, been most forgetful of "points" which afterwards they recollect they might have made quite easily "if only they had thought"—they have, in short, sometimes been most obviously disconcerted—and painfully so.

Yet, the reality of having nothing to say is not funny for all that. It is not funny to look even more stupid than you feel—and that's saying a good deal. Moreover, it isn't especially funny to be thought more stupid than you look. After all, the "having nothing to say" is a mere trifle. It is being known to be at a loss that is the sting.

It seems to me that the so-called "necessities of life," about which poets are wont to sing and philosophers to expound, might aptly be termed the "inconsistencies" of life. For instance, everybody around College Halls is beginning to wake up to the fact that "Life is real"—decidedly so: everybody knows, just as well as you and I do, that everybody else is privately pondering over the insoluble problem of "how we're going to get over all this work": and yet, curious to relate, everybody is offended at everybody else who dares to so much as mention "work" outside of lecture hours, and indignantly wants to know "for goodness' sake, why can't we have a change of subject?"

'Tis, methinks, a highly inconsistent course of conduct—but then, "variety," I suppose, is the spice of life.

Then, again, take that last resource of desperate flounders in the quagmire of enforced conversation—the much-abused topic of "the weather." 'Tis plainly to be seen that the elements have conspired to show us just how irrational and inconsistent the things of this life can be. One day we all carefully remember to take our umbrellas and make due preparations against weather, which, to all intents and purposes, is sure to be foul—it doesn't rain. But, though it always changes its mind for the better on that particular day and probably freezes instead, it invariably changes it for the worse when we sally out with joyous expectations of clear skies the next day. Verily, presentiments, be they ever so real, are no true criterions of what is to be. Ah, well! a wit once remarked: "Ignorance is said to be bliss. That may be so; I never tried it."

But, to give a practical demonstration of the inconsistency e'en pervading the columns of "College Girl," let me abruptly change the subject by announcing that the final debate under the auspices of the College Women's Debating Union will be

held in Castle Memorial Hall at McMaster University on Friday evening, February 13. The debate is between McMaster and Victoria, and will be open to all. The subject chosen is: "Resolved, that the evils arising from intemperance are greater than those arising from war." The judges will be members of the Faculty from Trinity University and University College, respectively, and an outsider. A. H. Abbott, B. A., has kindly consented to act as the judge representing University College. A. R.

At the regular meeting of the Y. W. C. A. on Tuesday, an address, which was much appreciated, was given by Miss A. C. Macdonald, '01, Travelling Secretary of the Student Volunteer Movement.

THE ORATORY CONTEST.

THE fourth annual Oratory contest was held in the Student's Union Hall on Saturday evening. The excellent programme brought out a large audience, who gave an attentive hearing to the six orators and to the musical numbers which were interspersed through the speeches. Mr. Brébner, the President of the Lit., occupied the chair.

Messrs. Collins, Andrews, Sadler and Thornton opened the programme with an acceptable quartette. Mr. Andrew Thompson, '03, then delivered an oration on "Student Ideals." Mr. Thompson excelled in the matter of his speech, which was exceedingly well prepared. A slight hesitancy in his delivery was the one weakness in what was in all other respects an able address.

Mr. W. A. McTaggart, '04, followed with an address on "Scottish Heroes." The speaker was fluent and handled his subject in an enthusiastic manner.

Mr. H. T. Hunter spoke then on "Ideals in Life." This speech was decidedly one of the best of the evening. It showed careful preparation and thought.

Mr. G. W. Carter was the next speaker. His oration was on "The Nature of and Demands for True Manhood." The speaker treated his subject in an earnest manner, and aroused great enthusiasm in the audience.

Miss Houston then contributed a solo, which was received with great favor. She was compelled to respond to an encore.

"The Undergraduate Idea" was handled ably by Mr. W. H. Vance, '04. The speaker has a very fine delivery, and was the most polished orator of the evening. His subject was one which appealed particularly to the numerous undergraduates who were present, and was worked out very effectively.

Mr. J. B. Paulin, '04, then spoke on "Canadian Pioneers." Mr. Paulin detracted from the effect of an otherwise excellent oration by having to refer at times to his notes.

While the judges, Messrs. Wm. Houson, M.A., T. Mulvey, K.C., and Prof. Robertson were deciding the fate of the orators, Mr. E. A. Lucas gave a violin solo and Mr. C. E. Clarke sang. Mr. C. E. Clarke responded to an encore.

Mr. Houson, on behalf of the judges, then delivered the award. Mr. Vance was unanimously given the decision.

The meeting closed, after a vote of thanks had been tendered to those who contributed to the programme, and to the gentlemen who had acted as judges.

THE CALENDAR.

Friday, Feb. 6.—The University College Dance at 8.30 p.m.

Saturday, Feb. 7.—Queen's—University of Toronto, senior hockey match; Mutual Street Rink.

Sunday, Feb. 8.—Second University Sermon, by Rev. T. W. Herridge, D.D., of Ottawa; Wycliffe Hall 11 a.m.

Tuesday, Feb. 12.—Assault-at-Arms. Gymnasium.