

availed not, and the wrath of the offended deity was presumably placated for another year.

Notwithstanding these attempts, the echoes of Convocation Hall had hardly become once more quiescent when it seemed that they had transferred themselves to the vaults below. For a large throng of stern and outraged seniors could be seen streaming in, accompanied by the unlucky verdants. No time was lost; magic-like, the gathering had resolved itself into mufti, solemnly arrayed, a dozen true and honest-looking jurymen, learned counsel for and against the prisoners, the zealous crier, ushers sturdy and watchful, ubiquitous reporters, and, finally, eager and all-attentive spectators. The mysteries of the orthodox knee-drill, grovellings, gallops, passings, together with divers other arcanal rites, were duly inculcated into the delinquents after their case had been more or less carefully and leniently considered by the court. And it must not be imagined that the eminent counsel for the defence left a stone unturned to secure their acquittal. But the odds were against him, for, not to talk of the vigilance on the part of the prosecution, the plea of mental aberration on which much reliance had been laid was peremptorily disposed of by his Lordship, who quoted as his authority the case of *The Seniors v. Holmes*, and, in fact, I must record it as my conviction that the mufti was altogether too conversant with the leading cases on the subject to be hoodwinked by the defence.

Sentence having been duly passed and carried out on the culprits, and their solemn declaration of secrecy being obtained, the court adjourned, with orders that the next session should be holden whenever the state of the docket would call for another general gaol delivery.

A GRAD.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

The Mathematical and Physical Society held its last meeting for the Michaelmas Term in Lecture-room No. 8. Mr. J. M. Clark occupied the chair. In the absence of the Recording Secretary, Mr. W. Stephen was elected Recording Secretary *pro tem*. Mr. Bowerman, in accordance with his previous notice, moved, seconded by Mr. Martin, "That a medal similar to the McMurrich medal of the Natural Science Association be awarded by this Society annually, and that the following committee: Messrs. Clark, Mulvey, and Martin, be appointed to consider the means of establishing and best method of awarding it, and report at the next meeting," which was unanimously carried. The most interesting part of the programme was a paper by Mr. A. Baker, M.A., on "Geometrical Criteria in cubic equations, and Geometrical Treatment of Fourier's Theorem." In this paper Mr. Baker, in a most ingenious and original manner, obtained geometrically, and graphically represented all the results that are algebraically obtained in cubic equations and Fourier's Theorem, by writers on the theory of equations; he pointed out that in these cases as in others, a marked symmetry between algebraical and geometrical processes and how they were complementary to each other. He stated his opinion that when equations could be solved it was by a certain transformation, if necessary, that corresponded to transforming the curve which the equation represented to a new axis with regard to which the curve bore a certain symmetry. He represented the curve denoted by the cubic equation in its solvable form, and traced the curve represented by the auxiliary equation which it is necessary to solve in order to obtain the roots of the cubic, applying it to all circumstances arising from variations in the constants. Fourier's Theorem was also treated in a similar interesting and lucid manner.

Messrs. Martin and Bowerman solved problems handed to the Secretary.

Mr. Baker, in reply to a vote of thanks tendered to him for the trouble he had taken in preparing a paper for the Society, gave some very pithy advice, and in particular advising them to take advantage of the other Societies whose proceedings are of a different nature to our own, in order to counteract the tendency produced by mathematics to meagerness of expression.

Messrs. S. J. Saunders and A. Elliot were elected members, and A. F. Hunter proposed for membership. The Society then adjourned to meet on the first Tuesday in January.

ENGINEERING SOCIETY.

The regular meeting of the above Society was held in the School of Practical Science on Tuesday afternoon. The President, Prof.

Galbraith, occupied the chair. After the routine business had been transacted Mr. E. F. Ball read a very interesting paper on "Asphalt Pavements" which showed careful study and observation.

Mr. Ball first gave a short historical outline of asphalt, then minutely described,—its chemical constituents and adaptation to different climates; the best method of preparing it for pavements; the preparation of the road-bed, and finally the laying of the asphalt on this bed. The next paper was read by Mr. E. W. Stern, a graduate of this school, who, having spent three years in the field, was in the position to add to the transactions of the Society a very valuable paper on "Railroad construction." The organization of parties and the duties of every man on the staff were thoroughly indicated. He then described the best methods of,—staking out work, referencing hubs, cross sectioning, keeping cross section notes, laying out bridges and culverts, and of diverting rivers and streams where necessary. Systems of monthly and final estimates were investigated and an original plan of noting "borrow pits" explained. After pointing out some useful checks on contractors and how to lay track, Mr. Stern gave some valuable information concerning the different instruments used in railroad work.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The last regular meeting of the Natural Science Association for Michaelmas term was held last Tuesday evening, the Vice-President, F. T. Shutt, B.A., in the chair. In a very interesting paper on "Mining in Freiberg," Mr. H. R. Wood, B.A., charmed his audience by his vivid description of old Freiberg and his first descent of the mines. Mr. Fyfe followed with a paper on "Amphioxus," describing minutely its habits, anatomy and development. Mr. Brent read a paper on "The Physical Geography and Geology of the Lesser Antilles," in which he endeavored to show the former connection of these Islands with South America, as indicated by geology, geography, and the fauna and flora of the group. A number of sketches and diagrams accompanied the paper.

HISTORICAL AND POLITICAL SCIENCE CLUB.

At a meeting of undergraduates in Moss Hall on Tuesday, Dec. 1st, it was resolved that an Historical and Political Science Association should be formed, no provision having been made for lectures in these branches. A committee was chosen to draft a constitution and report week from date. On Tuesday, Dec. 8th, the meeting was opened by reading of papers from Messrs. J. W. Garvin and J. McMillan, who respectively supported views for and against Henry George on the subject of "Nationalisation of Land." A lively discussion from those present was summed up by Mr. Houston, who occupied the chair. The report of the committee on constitution was then presented, accepted and adopted. It was formed upon the basis of the Literary Society constitution.

The following were then nominated for the respective offices:—President, W. Houston, M. A.; 1st Vice-President, Messrs. S. H. Bradford, J. McD. Duncan, T. M. Logie, Jas. Ross Chamberlain, Geo. Patterson; 2nd Vice-President, Messrs. J. G. Hume, J. McMillan, Wright and Kelly; Recording Secretary, N. H. Russell, Ferguson, H. Aikins, J. Crawford, McMurchie, J. W. Garvin; Corresponding Secretary, Messrs. Wilson, McGee, McNamara; Treasurer, Messrs. Mitchell, G. Crozier, J. G. Shearer; Councillors Messrs. Mann, J. A. Taylor, W. H. Hunter, E. G. Fitzgerald.

Subject for discussion next Tuesday evening is, Direct and Indirect Taxation. Meeting will be in Moss Hall at 4 o'clock.

A full meeting, to which both graduates and undergraduates are invited, is looked for.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

At the first English meeting of the Modern Language Society after the new year, the "Life and Works of Longfellow" will be discussed. Dr. Wilson has kindly consented to preside. The programme will consist of:—"Life of Longfellow," T. C. DesBarres; "Evangeline," Miss Lennox; "Hiawatha," A. Stevenson, B.A.; "Tales of a Wayside Inn," J. E. Jones; "Dramatic Works," T. Logie; "Readings from Longfellow," by H. J. Cody and J. Moss. This will be followed by a discussion of the essays and of Longfellow in general.

An invitation is extended to all interested in the subject of the evening. Dr. Wilson has also kindly consented to give a short course of readings from Browning, for the benefit of the College students specially. These will no doubt be given early next term, and on Saturday mornings, so that all students may have an opportunity of becoming acquainted with one of the greatest minds of our century.

At the last meeting of the Modern Language Club, the chair was