

pitch to his voice and an unevenness of delivery. When further practice has removed this Mr. Preston will certainly make a clear and pleasing speaker.

Mr. Talbot followed. He proceeded to the root of the matter, and contended that this idea of carrying our disputes away to the court of the Queen was but a relic of the feudal system. Canadians, like Americans, have overcome the greatest of obstacles to national development, and, like Americans, they can govern themselves to the fullest extent, and find in themselves a full and true fountain of equity and justice. In Mr. Talbot the Society has a concise speaker, replete with ingenuous argument.

J. A. Collins maintained for the negative that we must discuss the question having regard to Canada as it is, a set of divided provinces, with diverse interests, with sects and languages widely different. Hence the clear necessity of a court capable of adjudicating impartially between them, a court which cannot be constituted from among themselves, especially when the selection of occupants of the bench is so greatly in danger of being influenced by party considerations.

At the request of the chairman, Mr. Irwin followed in support of the Supreme Court. He connected the subject of last week's debate with that under discussion, regarding both as leading up to Independence. He found an argument against the carrying of the Caldwell v. McLaren case to the Privy Council in the vast expense entailed by such a course, noted the ignorance displayed by the English Judges in the above cited case, and concluded with a plea for independence.

Responding to numerous calls, Mr. J. G. Holmes spoke. His speech concluding the debate. He expressed his astonishment at the dearth of speakers, on a subject which had been aired from every platform in the country, and worn threadbare in political service. He considered the preceding speaker's allusion to the ignorance of the Privy Council Judges on such a minor question as to what a dam was or was not, as out-of-place. It was not an absolute necessity nor was it reasonable to expect that any judge should be proficient in the details of all subjects, a judge should know law, not facts necessarily. "The Privy Court" concluded the speaker, "is a blessing to Canada and far from the curse that the affirmative would have it supposed to be.

After expressing a very favourable opinion of Mr. McBrady's essay, the Chairman proceeded to sum up and decide the debate. He placed particular stress on the argument "Justice must proceed from the Crown, the Crown is the fountain head of all justice," advanced by the negative, and mainly on account of the strength of it, and the poor way in which the affirmative met it, gave the debate to the negative.

In the course of his remarks the Chairman expressed a very high opinion of Canadian judges, and testified also to his belief in the wisdom of self-government.

In the other division, presided over by Mr. McKay, the same subject was debated with the same result.

The affirmative was sustained by Messrs. Russell, Hodges and Boulton. Messrs. Ross, Duncan and Jones successfully maintained the negative.

Mr. Hodges has the honor of being the first of this year's Freshman class to speak before the Society, and while we hope that his indisposition to wearing the academical robe is not an indication of a too intensely radical spirit among his class, we are glad to accept his speech, along with those of Messrs. Boulton and Jones, as an augury of the talent existing among the Freshmen.

On re-assembling the standing business of the Society was transacted. The motion to place the Toronto News on file in the reading room was made and defeated. The election of a first year representative on the General Committee was conducted amid considerable excitement, reminding one faintly of a genuine literary society contest. The vote resulted in the election of Mr. R. L. Johnson over his opponent, Mr. T. A. Gibson, by a majority of two.

MATHEMATICAL AND PHYSICAL SOCIETY.

A large number of the members of the above Society met in Classroom No. 8 on Tuesday evening, the increase in the number being due to the fact that Professor Young had volunteered to read a paper on "Soluble Irreducible Equations of Prime Degrees." Professor Galbraith occupied the chair.

Before proceeding directly upon the subject of the paper, Professor Young demonstrated two or three beautiful laws which had been laid down by German authors, one of which, however, had never been proved before.

The solution of equations of the sixth degree and fifth (except in a very limited number of cases) has hitherto baffled all the masters of analysis. To Professor Young belongs the honour of giving satisfactory solutions of such equations.

Towards the close of his paper he gave his celebrated solution of the fifth degree, establishing the universal criterion as to their solubility.

After being the recipient of a cordial vote of thanks from the Society, Prof. Young retired amid loud applause. His paper is to appear in a few weeks in a prominent American journal.

Mr. T. Mulvey, B.A., then proceeded with some very interesting experiments in acoustics.

Neat solutions of problems were given by Mr. R. A. Thompson.

Problems were also solved by J. E. Martin, S. A. Henderson and J. C. Stuart. Mr. Witton was elected representative for the 1st year.

The meeting then adjourned.

MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB.

The Club met on Tuesday evening in Moss Hall. The President, Mr. Sykes, occupied the chair.

The entire proceedings of the meeting were conducted in French, some of the members showing considerable fluency. Three new members were nominated, after which the elections for the vacant offices took place, resulting as follows:—Vice-President, Mr. T. Rowan; Secretary, Mr. T. Logie; Councillor of the 1st year, Mr. Dales; Treasurer, Mr. Gale; the two latter being elected by acclamation.

Mr. Rowan then read a well-composed essay on Victor Hugo, the style of which was peculiarly French, some of the periods being marked by an electrifying impulse that would not be unworthy of that great *savant* himself.

Mr. Kent gave the principal idioms of *faire* in a short dialogue.

Mr. McPherson read a selection from one of Hugo's poems in a creditable manner.

The discussion of the subject "Is the abolition of text books in French in University College desirable?" was postponed till a future meeting of the Club.

THE NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

The first meeting of the present term was held last Tuesday evening, with a larger attendance than usual.

Routine business was then gone through, including thirteen proposals for membership. The new President, Prof. Ramsay Wright, F.R.M.S., delivered an inaugural address, taking as his subject a hitherto unknown form of sporocyst of a Trematode (allied to the "liver-fluke") which he had recently discovered among some fresh water plants. Mere beginners in the study of the natural sciences were thus impressed with a realization of the possibility of doing valuable original work on materials easily within their reach. In this connection also, the life history of the Trematode was presented in a very attractive and interesting form and illustrated with diagrams.

A short discussion followed, in which one member sought an explanation of one of the profoundest problems affecting the theory of evolution, whilst another, evidently imbued with a profoundly intense love for the festive bivalve, anxiously inquired if he was liable to become the final host of a dire Trematode parasite!

Mr. George Acheson, M.A., tendered his resignation of the office of First Vice-President, which, owing to his multifarious engagements, the Society was bound to accept.

Mr. Acheson has been invaluable as an officer and member of the Society ever since its organization some five years ago, and only those who have been in constant attendance at the Society's meetings can form an adequate appreciation of his services and inspiring enthusiasm in the pursuit of science.

Mr. A. B. McCallum, B.A., Fellow in Biology, was then nominated by Mr. T. P. Hall, B.A., for First Vice-President, and was elected by acclamation.

The next meeting of the Association will take place a week from next Tuesday, and the programme will be announced in next week's 'Varsity as well as on the bulletin board.

Y. M. C. A.

The weekly prayer meeting was held in Moss Hall, on Thursday evening.

The leader, Mr. J. McD. Duncan, conducted the opening devotional exercises and spoke on Nehemiah vi. 4. The enthusiasm of this hero and his followers was dwelt upon as necessary to their success. The same earnest purpose is necessary in the carrying on of our Y. M. C. A.