

Neither concert nor ball nor tea-party small
 Can charm the student away from his books ;
 And if they intrude he gives them such looks,
 And tells them he'd rather be left all alone
 With his nerves and muscle and bone.
 For its grind, grind, grind,
 Though wearied in body and mind.
 Oh, hasten the day with brain all a-cram,
 The student goes in for the second exam.,
 And passing or ploughed is relieved of the strain,
 And restored to his friends *compos mentis* again.

—The Edinburgh Student.

COLLEGE NEWS.

ALMA MATER SOCIETY.

AS the meetings of the A. M. S. have ended for this session, perhaps a few remarks on the society's work during the past few months may not be out of place at this time. We will not give a condensed *resume* of the minutes, but for once we are going to criticize, and we will do this in as short a space as possible.

First criticism—The President has been at nearly all the meetings, and while in the chair has conducted them to the satisfaction of all ; no one could have conducted them better. The Vice-Presidents, too, when called upon, have filled the chair very capably indeed.

Second criticism—The Mock Parliament, organized a month or two ago, started well and should have been a success. It could be, and was, a success in so far as public questions were discussed ; it could not be, and was not, a success when trivial and nonsensical questions were brought up. Unless the Mock Parliament can be carried on with the dignity of a real Parliament, it will never amount to anything and had better be dropped, as the time spent at it is simply wasted. This dignity might have been preserved had the leaders of the Government attended to their duties as they should have done, and had the Opposition entered a little more into the spirit of the thing and thought for a moment over what true parliamentary opposition means.

Third criticism—Although there has been a good deal of unnecessary fooling over small points, the business of the society has been carried on well. The secretary and treasurer have shown themselves well fitted for their positions, and the executive and other committees have done very well. So much for the *business* part of the society. The literary side has not so much to say for itself, and must be by some means changed next session. The Alma Mater Society during the past term has not been literary, it has been somewhat oratorical at times, quite business-like in its affairs, generally parliamentary in its meetings, but during the whole session not half a dozen readings have been heard, not an essay has been laid before the meetings, and so far as debates go, we are sure the critic must have wondered all session, and must be wondering now, what he was appointed for. He is no doubt a very capable man, but the society should give him a chance to use, in criticising debates, the talent for criticism which he so well possesses.

We have finished. We hope no one will take offence at what we have said, for it has been said in the best of spirit and with no malice whatever. We mean what we say, however, and think we have told the "all 'round" truth, and trust that the little eccentricities of the society mentioned above may be rectified another session.

PROF. M'NAUGHTON'S ADDRESS.

(Continued from No. 2.)

But, again, I admit that Greek is of no use, if by the word useful you mean what has money value. The knowledge of Greek will never make you rich. It is not a bread and butter discipline. It is not required even for any single learned profession. A man may be an excellent lawyer, doctor, or journalist without it. Nay, even a poet. Shakespeare knew little Latin and less Greek. Clergymen are supposed to require it, but I know several celebrated pulpit orators who have managed to make a very little serve their turn. What is more, Greek never was a useful subject in the sense of being of direct practical utility, never at least since the fall of the Roman empire. Even in the Middle Ages there was nothing locked up in it which could bring in money to the man who had the key. The scholars of the Middle Ages who flung themselves upon it with such absorbing passion and devoted their days and nights to the examination of its smallest linguistic details, jealously gathered up the minutest fragments of its wealth lest one grain of the gold should be lost, these men were not prompted by any utilitarian impulse, but only by the sacred thirst of wisdom which they deemed more precious than rubies. And what was the result ? This, as always : that wisdom was justified of her children in the results not only to themselves but to the whole world. They were vindicated not only by their own inward delight and the sweet and secret favours of the Muses, but outwardly and manifestly to everyone in that magnificent movement of the human spirit, embodied before all eyes in countless forms of art, literature, theology, politics, enterprise, which began with the Renaissance, reached the masses in the Reformation, was partly expressed and partly travestied in the French Revolution, and has come down to us in the shape of religious, political and speculative freedom. Why, the fact that we are here to-night is due to these men's devotion to this useless study : trebly due to it. The astronomical speculations of the Greeks, made current through Europe by these scholars, supplied the necessary basis for the reasonings which led to the discovery of America. The Anglo-Saxon race are preponderant in America. Why ? Because the religious movement begun by the Reformation—which in its turn owed its origin in great part to Luther's study of the Epistle to the Galatians in the original Greek—developed in England into Puritanism, and the Puritans were compelled to sail in the *Mayflower* and seek in the New World that freedom of worship which was denied them in the Old. And the ships by which we and our fathers crossed the sea, sailed in faith of the properties of the ellipse expounded by an old Greek mathematician indispensable to Sir Isaac Newton in his great discovery of the law of gravitation—that law which is the hinge of the science of astronomy, and of the art of navigation, which chiefly depends upon it.