

McGILL  
UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

*Wednesday, January 20, 1886.*

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# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

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## McGill University Gazette

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### Editorials.

#### THE STANDARD OF MATRICULATION.

The reasons assigned for retaining the present low standard of matriculation in Arts are sufficiently weighty to demand that the matter should be given grave consideration before a decision to raise it is

made. What that decision will ultimately be there can exist no doubt. But it is well to know what the immediate probable and possible consequences may be of demanding wider and more extensive knowledge on the part of matriculants. A certain number of students from this Province, whose training in the lower schools is defective, and whose opportunities for private study are very limited, would be debarred from coming to the University at all. The number of students who would be thus temporarily shut out is stated by some as large; an examination of the class lists will show that the number is smaller than generally supposed. However, whether few or many, it is evidently a primary duty for McGill to provide means of higher education for the youth of this part of Canada; if to do this the standard required for admission has to be placed ridiculously low, evidently reform is needed in the preparatory schools. Should the College wait until such improvement is made? Surely not. So long as little work is demanded, so long will students come to the University ill-prepared, often quite ungrounded in some branches of elementary knowledge. This is the natural outcome of placing matriculation requirements at a temptingly easy standard, thereby attracting students who will never do themselves or the College much good, and who had better stay away. The tendency at present is to encourage young men to take an Arts degree, by placing within their means and abilities, however narrow these may be, all the prestige which is conferred by University training, without the substantial benefits that ought to be inseparable from it. Let it be remembered that the loss of students will only last a session or two, if that long.

Another consequence will be a readjustment of the work done in the first and second years, and this will entail some trouble, and be attended, perhaps, with extra labour to the professors. But our professors have never been found obstructing reforms because they would require to work harder, and, therefore, neither shall we stop to consider this objection. We believe that so long as McGill continues to admit students practically without examination, the country academies and schools will never improve their own curricula. Why should they indeed? On the other hand, these schools will immediately reform if they find that their pupils, desirous of entering professions

are excluded by McGill's high standard. By the present system men, sometimes quite unfitted for college, are admitted, and await the first Christmas examination with trepidation. They go down before it, and here is the real matriculation, say the defenders of the *status quo*. But these students are already registered undergraduates, we reply, they usually remain in the college, retard the work of the classes, and conscientious or not, are compelled to resort to cramming in order to pass future examinations. These ill-prepared students can explain many of the existent evils of our methods of education—cramming, absolutism of written examinations as a test, etc.—and what is most lamentable, such students cannot be held responsible for any one of these evils. It is the system which is at fault.

Look at our own Medical Faculty. Its regulations are most stringent; candidates are rejected with uncompromising sternness, even at their final examinations. Yet, what do we find? That the number of students is constantly increasing, that its reputation has become continental, that unsuccessful candidates come back again and again, in spite of heavy expenses, to obtain a degree from a school which has so justly acquired celebrity.

The proposal, therefore, to raise the standard of matriculation, and, consequently, to improve in general the whole Arts course, may seem too radical; but the results in other Universities and another Faculty of our own University point to the change being worth the risk.

#### THE FACULTY OF LAW.

Among the questions which are to receive particular attention at the approaching meeting of the Corporation of the University we understand that the present condition of the Law Faculty, and how it may be improved, will have a prominent place. This meeting of Corporation will be a most important one, and we sincerely hope that the discussion upon this and the other most important subjects to be considered will quickly lead to practical and beneficial results. At the meeting of the Graduates Society to be held on Saturday some of these matters will receive attention, and it is the duty of every member to be present on that occasion and thus enable the Representative Fellows to speak in Corporation backed by the opinion and voice of the great body of Graduates. It is by no mere coincidence that this meeting of the Society takes place a few days before that of the Corporation; it has been arranged with a wise purpose, and we congratulate the Executive Committee upon their foresight. We suggest, if we may be permitted to do so,

that another meeting be called in a short time to hear from the mouths of our Representative Fellows the result of their endeavours in the Corporation. It is only by thus keeping touch with their constituents that the Representative Fellows can ever hope to effect much.

Our remarks on the Faculty of Law in last issue have, of course, so far not had much effect. The result of improving the attendance at lectures, and giving a momentary fillip to the Professors was of course obviously to be expected. But what we look for is a permanent improvement not to be obtained without a radical re-organization. Those inclined to adopt a *laissez-faire* policy must be asked to resign from the Faculty at no matter what cost and their positions filled by more energetic if less well-known men. There has been too much pessimism rampant for a healthy condition. It is to be hoped that the Corporation will take the matter thoroughly in hand, and not be talked over by those whom it may suit to say that the Faculty is just as it has been for years, and that nothing better is ever to be expected. The resolutions with regard to the Faculty of Law to be presented to the Graduates' Society on Saturday will embody, we believe, almost exactly what we have advocated in these columns.

#### VALEDICTORIES.

A correspondent in the States writes asking if the GAZETTE publishes the valedictory addresses read at Convocations, and our reply is that summaries only of these addresses are usually published. The words of the professor chosen to address the graduating classes are generally printed, not from any desire to pass over the students' efforts, but, because the latter are not often willing to see their effusions in print. In these days and at our University, the task of the writer of a valedictory is a thankless one. The area to be traversed is limited enough in all conscience, but the powers that be, not content with the restrictions naturally imposed by the occasion itself, are quick to resent the slightest deviation from the prescribed rules. We do not refer to departures from respectful utterances alone, although on this point an undue sensitiveness seems to have been developed by the authorities extending to a positive distaste for independence of thought or language. But we believe that the institution is rapidly degenerating—if that stage has not already been reached—into a sort of valedictory mill, and the appointed performer is expected merely to turn the crank.

Now, if the custom is worth preserving, as we believe it is, why not permit the writer sufficient

latitude to ensure an occasional fresh idea finding its way into an otherwise wholly uninteresting collection of commonplace. Public opinion is very long-suffering, as the Faculty is very well aware, but there is a limit to its patience, and to treat audiences that attend Convocations, year after year to an enforced repetition of unmitigated twaddle is a dangerous indulgence in arbitrary power. Is it reasonable to expect that young men, rashly radical as they sometimes may be, will say anything worth listening to when they are subject to a censorship so strict, that it excludes a free expression of the main opinions of classmates who have confidently chosen their representatives? As the vigorous minded Mrs. Poyser in "Adam Bede" said, life would not be worth living if one had always to be kept corked-up, and only allowed to dribble out one's opinions on the sly like a leaky barrel.

Ridiculous self-assertion will recoil upon itself. The anxiety to preserve the young spokesman of his fellow graduates, from the consequences of his own rashness and folly, by checking the pace of his youthful Pegasus to a stumbling walk, may arise from a watchful and kindly regard. Those possessed of the intelligence of even a dodo have always doubted that sort of sympathy.

In these times the divine right of kings and other authorities to govern wrong, is questioned without hesitation, and the influence of the outside world, oftentimes alters the policy in little matters of the most respected and dignified bodies. The contention in the present instance is reasonable enough. Were the privilege demanded a great one, too much might be involved in the granting of it. Time will show whether its very smallness is sufficient ground upon which to refuse it.

#### DESULTORY READING.

The students of Edinburgh University were recently treated to a discourse by Lord Iddesleigh, their Lord Rector, devoted mainly to the uses and abuses of desultory reading. Much of the advice which he gave his hearers has been given before, and the maxims and wise saws on this subject which are so frequently poured into the inattentive ears of the rising generation were once more brought into requisition. But, on the whole, his lordship was kind to the desultory reader, mindful, perhaps, that like many of his class he has been a sinner in the matter himself. From the cares of statecraft we may imagine him to have often turned to his library as a solace, free to follow the bent of his literary inclinations. It is reasonable to admit that a certain amount of miscellaneous reading even of a light character is good

in so far as it serves to relieve the mental strain brought about by hard study. This much may be granted, but it is dangerous doctrine to preach, for the average student is never slow to avail himself of the privilege. To be just to Lord Iddesleigh, however, he seems to desire desultory reading pursued with some method, paradoxical as this may sound. Evidently he would like to condemn the practice, but the memory of past pleasure is too strong for him.

Now, the tendency to become a bookworm is so slight in these days, while the temptation to devour books indiscriminately without regard either to their character or the digestion of their contents, is so strong, that whatever advice is necessary is, in our opinion, that which frowns upon the indulgence of ill-regulated tastes and habits. The time consumed in cursory glances at books may not be utterly lost; aptness in quotation may deceive the unthinking multitude into believing that here we have a widely-read man, but the judgment of persons whose good opinion is worth having will be otherwise, and even the man himself when he seriously reflects upon the results of his sciolism, will confess that his more deeply if less widely read neighbour reaps more practical benefits from his knowledge than he. The one is a thinker, and will originate something; the other can go no farther than his tether will permit him.

All this is, of course, well-trodden ground, but we are led to it from having met with students in our own university whose excuses for random reading were very plausible. One student whose active and bright intelligence had been confined during the elementary part of his education to a limited range of reading, on finding himself with more spare time at once plunged into novel-reading, and proceeded to make himself familiar with the great novelists. By the end of his second year he had read the works of Scott, Lytton, Dickens, Thackeray and George Eliot, but of course other authors, not novelists. To the charge of going in for too much light reading, he replied ingeniously that a man must know these writers at some period of his life and that in their works was embodied the deepest study of the human heart. These and other arguments commonly adduced in favour of the novel reading habits of students constituted his defence. The point to be noted is that students do not usually read fiction except for pleasurable entertainment. One may hesitate before advising them not to read the works of the master artists of fiction, but anything like attempting complete acquaintance say with even Scott, if not acquired by accidental circumstances, is certainly to be deprecated. This may appear treason to the professional critic, to

the litterateur; from the experience of the ordinary individual in this very, perhaps too, practical land, it is sound common sense. The fate of misdirected energy is liable to overtake those who for the sake of happy allusions in their speeches or essays emulate the example of the unhappy young man whom Mr. Lowell satirizes as,

A reading machine ever wound up and going  
He mastered whatever was not worth the knowing.

Another illusion so seductively presented in our numerous reading-rooms, libraries, and clubs calls for a warning also. We must keep up with contemporary literature is the cry. Wait, do not be too eager. If you are studying up some question of the day, the latest review will certainly aid you, will conveniently give the results of some one else's labour in the same direction, but better still, get the elements of the subject under consideration where the writers in the magazines get them, and work it out for yourself. In general, much of periodical literature may safely be neglected, and the cultivation of the power of knowing what *not* to read will be found of great value at every stage of life.

## Poetry.

[FOR THE GAZETTE.]

### HORE HORATIONÆ.

BOOK III.: ODE XIII.

Bandusian Spring, as crystal clear,  
With flowers thy due, and pleasant wine,  
A kid to-morrow shall be thine,  
Whose horns just budding forth appear.

Portending love and strife. In vain!  
Spring from a wanton flock, his blood  
The ice-cold current of the flood  
Erelong with crimson hue shall stain.

The blasing dog-star's scorching heat  
Doth touch thee not. Oh, grateful thou  
To oxen weary of the plough,  
And the faint herd with wand'ring feet.

Thou, too, ennobled shalt be found  
Among earth's fountains, when I sing  
Thy babbling rills that downward spring  
From hollow crags by ilex crowned.

BOOK III.: ODE XVII.

O Panus of the wood-nymphs coy  
Fond lover, through my sunny farm  
Tread lightly, and, bestowing joy,  
My nurslings shield from harm!

So shall a kid his life-blood pour  
Each year for thee: Love's mate, the bow  
Shall brim with wine—an altar hear  
Its fragrant smoke shall roll.

The herds in verdant pastures play,  
When thy December Nones appear:  
The hamlet, too, makes holiday,  
With many an idle steer.

'Mid wolves the fearless lambkin bleats—  
The woodland showers its leaves for thee:  
Thrice with his foot the deliver beats  
The hateful ground in glees.

GEO. MURRAY.

## Contributions.

### DUELLING IN EUROPE.

The time when duelling was countenanced is this country may be easily called to mind by many who can hardly yet be called old, and doubtless many of the readers of this paper have had friends or relations who at some time have seen fit to uphold their honour by a duel, but now we have come to look on the custom as something utter incompatible with modern ideas of justice.

Nearly all other civilized and uncivilized nations of the world are of a very different opinion, for the practice has at the present day a deep firm hold among all but English-speaking peoples. It is true that in most countries there are laws against it, but they are so rarely enforced and so easily evaded that it is evident to all that in this case the law makers sympathise with the law breakers. In fact the authorities merely require that the thing be done privately and according to the rules which regulate affairs of honour, and these conditions being complied with there is no danger of any serious punishment even if the result be fatal.

In Germany, France, Holland, Denmark, Italy, Austria, Spain and Russia any man may find himself obliged to fight or be looked down upon as a coward for ever after, and perhaps be ignominiously turned out of any society to which he may belong. In the case of an officer in any of the standing armies refusing to fight when the court of honour decides he ought, he loses his commission and is obliged to give up his career for ever.

It is particularly among military and university men that duelling is most prevalent and it is practise to an extent of which most people in this country have little idea. We hear a good deal about the encounters in the *Bois de Boulogne*, and also of the way in which German students fight all padded in leather, and we are disposed to look upon the duelling of the present day as a very farcical affair. But those who have lived for any length of time abroad know that there is quite as much tragedy as farce to be seen on the duelling ground in Europe to-day, for among the German and Slavish nations, very bloody and fatal encounters with sword and pistol are not at all uncommon. They are most frequent among the Poles, Hungarians and Russians, but are common enough among Germans both in Austria and Germany, and often occur in France.

In the last-named country, however, the character of the people is a sort of safeguard against fatal consequences, for they are not vindictive and their desire for blood usually moderates very considerably in the interval between the quarrel and the crossing of the swords. Their courage is unimpeachable and they use the most deadly weapon known to duellists, but their good-nature hinders them from doing each other much harm. Not so the Germans or Slavs. They fight in right good earnest always, each man does his best to make his opponent suffer, and usually one at least is pretty successful.

The laws which govern duelling vary very much in different countries and the weapons used very much in

more. In France the *fleuret* is universal while the pistol and sabre are rarely to be seen. Among students and literary men duels are very common and may be considered as a harmless amusement. Among officers they are also frequent but almost always serious affairs, and often end in the death of one or both of the antagonists. Fencing is part of their education, but nevertheless they seem to have a strong liking for pistols at short range, and these latter will doubtless become more common soon.

In Poland and Hungary they use pistols and curved sabres, and a duel which does not terminate fatally or very seriously is an exception. The number and fierceness of these encounters is truly startling. The people are as excitable as the French, quite as brave and ten times as determined and vindictive. They fight for the pure love of fighting very often, and such characters as was "Fighting Fitzgerald" are quite common. The following incident may serve to illustrate what I say:

A number of students were sitting drinking beer in a famous Bierhalle, in Vienna, when a Pole whom I knew slightly joined them, being introduced to the majority of those present by a friend. One of the students did not like the way in which the Pole looked at him, and promptly challenged him to fight a duel with sabres. The Pole refused, saying he had not meant to offend him in any way, nor had he been offended himself, and moreover he did not wish to fight with a man whom he had seen for the first time only five minutes before. The other said that if he wished for provocation he would be happy to insult him on the spot, whereupon the Pole remarked that he answered insults with his fist.

This was considered quite sufficient to warrant a recourse to sabres and they met early next morning.

The Austrian was an excellent fencer but he met his master in the Pole, who, at the expense of what he was pleased to term a scratch, across the chest, laid his opponent's abdomen open inside of five minutes.

Such scenes are constantly occurring and are particularly common in and about Krakau and Lemberg. The encounters are not regulated by strict laws as to duration, etc., and they fight to a finish every time.

Among the Germans duelling has been reduced as nearly as possible to an exact science. They like to see everything regulated by precise laws and the rules which must be adhered to when a duel is fought are many in number and very complicated. I would not attempt to enumerate them even if I could, and shall only give an idea of the ways in which duels are actually fought.

First of all there is the "Schlaegermensur" of which we so often hear. The weapons used are light swords with straight blades sharpened on both sides near the point. The men stand facing each other with the weapons held high above their heads and slanting slightly forward. When in this position a blow cannot reach them and the whole science of the thing is to strike quickly and get back into position again before the other can return the blow. The arm is held always in the same position and all the work done with the wrist. The sword arm, chest and throat, are well protected by bandages, while the eyes are covered

with iron spectacles kept on by leather bands which partially protect the ears. Owing to the lightness of the swords and the way in which they are used from the wrist only, it is impossible to strike a hard enough blow to fracture a man's skull, but you may cut the bone every time and sometimes splinter it, or you may cut off his lips or his nose or go right through his tongue. Fatal wounds are never given and deaths from this sort of duelling never occur. In fact it may be said to replace our boxing with gloves, which latter practice the Germans consider to be low and brutal and not to be compared for a moment with the *Schlaegermensur* as regards the skill needed. I have however had the good fortune once or twice to see a German put on the gloves with an Englishman and in a few minutes get up on the floor with a very high opinion of our noble art.

The duel with the *Schlaeger* serves the purpose of settling small disputes and of affording the student an opportunity of showing his courage. The majority of the encounters are between members of the different corps who usually fight for the pure love of it. It is not exactly bloodthirstiness but because there is really no other way in which they can contend with each other physically. All our out door sports are entirely unknown, with the exception of boating and bicycling, neither of which have attained any development, and the only way in which a man can make himself honourably conspicuous is by fighting. Comparatively few belong to the corps, but a large number fight under their auspices, and indeed no duel ever takes place without some corps or society first sitting in judgment on it, to decide whether there is sufficient cause or not, and afterwards seeing that it takes place attended with all the necessary forms and ceremonies. Such duels are tacitly allowed by the police and the university as a general thing, but now and then a new rector will try and put a stop to them, and they are held in private.

Sometimes I have seen the room filled with all sorts of townspeople, soldiers, old women, young girls and children, all watching the blood flow and seemingly enjoying it immensely. Such exhibitions became so common at the university of G.—where I was, that a determined effort was made by the authorities, and soon it became very difficult to find out where a duel was going to be held. But being great friends with the fencing master I generally knew about them and used occasionally to go and look on. One day I was informed that there were going to be several very interesting encounters early on the following morning, and so I arrived upon the scene shortly before the first pair were to fight.

There were some forty students present, talking quietly, many indulging in a glass of Schnapps, or beer, early as it was. As soon as the doctors arrived and had got their bandages, basins, etc., ready in a small side room, the two who were to open the ball stripped and were attired in their fighting gear by their friends. They then advanced towards an open space in the middle of the room and took up their position opposite each other, where certain lines chalked on the floor marked the places.

They were strange looking beings, all swathed in

black bandages from throat to waist, with huge iron spectacles on and their right arms supported horizontally by friends.

They sat on the backs of a couple of chairs and looked at each other, while their respective seconds stepped forward, each with his bright cap on his head and a sword in his hand, and gravely saluted what we would call the umpire or time-keeper, introducing themselves and their men. This being done, the swords were brought and placed in the hands of the principals (who all along were allowed to make no exertion not absolutely necessary before the fight began), and each sword was carefully wiped down with a rag and some sweet oil. Next the umpire, as I shall continue to call him, called out, "Silence for a *schlagmesser* between Herrn S. and Herrn M.," "which is to last thirty minutes." Then the seconds placed themselves on either side of the men, stooping down and holding themselves ready to strike up the swords of the combatants with their own, and one called out, "*Auf die mensur!*" whereupon the men stood up just outside of the marks on the floor. Then the other second commanded "*Bündel die klängen!*" and they crossed their swords. "*Sind gebunden!*" shouted the first second again; "*Los!*" exclaimed the other, and hardly was this last word spoken when the men began to slash at each other with a rapidity and force which I find difficult to give an idea of on paper. It was a corps duel, and the men, as is usual in such, very evenly matched, but neither were very good fencers. Three or four minutes elapsed before anything happened, when, suddenly, there came a cry of "*Halt!*" from the seconds and they struck up the swords. The younger man had got a cut from the back of his head to his forehead and was bleeding pretty freely. The doctor examined it, as he leant against a chair with his arm supported by his second, and as it was not very deep he sponged it a little, the swords were wiped, the same formula gone through by the seconds, and at the word "*Los!*" the fight began again as fiercely as ever. Each man appeared to be trying to see how many blows he could strike per second and how hard, and it seemed incredible that so few should take effect. Another five minutes elapsed, and then the doctor had to be called to pronounce upon a cut on the younger's forehead. It was not very bad, and again they set to work, less vigorously now on the part of the younger who was weak from loss of blood.

It was evident that the elder was going to win and in fact the last round only lasted one minute, when his sword lighted on his opponent's temple, making the blood simply spurt out. The doctor stopped the fight for good now, and the wounded man was delivered over to his care. He never showed by as much as a wink that he was hurt, and received each blow without flinching in the smallest degree. Indeed I only once saw a man try to avoid a blow by moving his head, and his corps was perfectly furious with him for so doing, although the poor fellow had lost so much blood that he could neither strike nor guard, and hardly knew what he was about.

Next came the great event of the day. The challenger was a noted fencer having fought twenty-five duels and only been beaten in the first one, the other

was also an old hand at the business, and hailed from Gottingen. Being in the town on a visit he could not resist the temptation of having a trial of skill with the famous Dr. Schudt, so he jostled him on the street as gently as possible, and received the desired challenge in double quick time. Nobody had an idea as to which would win, and when they faced each other, they were seen to be well matched as regards height and weight. Neither had any scars to speak of, but everybody knew that one of the two would leave that place with about as bad wounds as are to be had in a duel of this description, for the fight was to last forty-five minutes, and an often disputed question of superiority to be settled once and for ever. As soon as the surgeons had finished patching up the victim of the first duel, the men were led to their positions, the usual salutations and introductions were gone through, and amid dead silence the seconds called out sharply the four commands.

Instantly the word "*Los*" was uttered the men attacked each other furiously. For half a minute the bright swords went flashing through the air far faster than the eye could follow them, then came the sudden "*Halt!*" of the seconds and the striking up of the weapons. I looked at Schudt, and saw that he had got a nasty cut on the right temple, but the stranger was badly hurt, having one side of his head laid open to the very bone. The doctor sponged the wound a little, fitted on a bandage and, after merely casting a glance at Schudt, signified that they might go on with the fight. In a few seconds they were at it again, raining blows upon each other with a power and quickness which showed both to be masters of their weapons, and indeed I had never seen the *Schläger* used with such dexterity before. The excitement among the spectators was intense, but there was no noise, and all watched for the blow which would perhaps finish the affair, for experts like these were, deal in nothing but the hardest sort of hitting. And the end came sooner even than anybody expected. There came a sudden "*Ah!*" from a number of the spectators, as Schudt was seen to draw his sword along his adversary's cheek from his ear to his mouth cutting right through and exposing both rows of his teeth. Instantly the seconds interfered, and the stranger leaning forward let the blood pour down on to the floor, while the doctor coolly examined the wound to see whether he could possibly be allowed to keep on fighting. This was pronounced to be not exactly advisable under the circumstances, and so he was helped away to the side room, being followed thither by his late adversary who was bleeding plentifully from three cuts on the side of his head, which however were of very little account compared to the injuries the other had received.

The way the affair terminated mightily pleased all the spectators, but there was no unseemly applause, only a quiet hum of comment until the next pair faced each other. There was little interest attaching to this contest to any one but the antagonists and perhaps myself, I being curious to see two students of theology (for such they were) settle a trivial dispute according to their ideas of what future expounders of the doctrine of Christ should do under the circum-

stances. It was soon evident to me that spilling each other's gore was not considered incompatible with preaching the gospel, for the first exponent of the golden rule began operations by hacking a piece off his beloved brother's chin, to which the latter responded by letting him have one on top of the head which splintered the bone. Then No. One felt for his adversary's teeth, and in so doing got the point of No. Two's sword through his nose, after which they slashed each other pretty squally for some time, until the doctor considered that enough blood had been shed, and they were led weak and half blinded to the side room.

Having lived so long in Germany the whole affair did not surprise me much, but it may afford many, as it did me, much food for reflection. I remarked interrogatively to another theologian present that I supposed those who had just fought were governed by the old Mosaic law, and had not yet studied up as far as the New Testament. He did not seem to like the remark, and as I knew better than to trust the forgiving spirit of a German upholder of the Christian faith, I subsided into silence and soon took my departure.

The above is a description of the mildest form of duelling known in Germany, and now I will briefly mention something about a few other modes in which duels are fought is that enlightened country.

To begin with there is the duel with the sabre, which may be fought with bandages on, or without any whatever.

The bandages when used consist of leather pads over the heart and under the arms and of a strong leather collar round the neck. The men are stripped to the waist and armed with long curved swords, sharpened on both sides, and with heavy iron hilts. They stand facing each other, leaning forward and with their sword-arms extended at full length in front of them. When in this position they can just reach each other with the points of their swords. They are not allowed to move the left foot, but may advance with the right one if they care to. All the movements of the sword are made from the wrist alone, no thrusting is permitted, and as the weapon is very heavy, a great deal of strength as well as skill is necessary in order to become at all proficient in its use. In fact comparatively few master it, and hence those who are known to be able to wield it effectually are a good deal feared and respected. Duels with it and in which the men are bandaged, are common, and very serious or fatal wounds are the result of a great many. But when it comes to fighting without bandages, in four cases out of five, one man gets killed or maimed for life. It is in fact the most deadly sort of encounter known to German duellists and is rarely to be met with among the Germans proper though much more common among the Austrians. In this latter country however lighter swords are used, the men are allowed to move round as much as they like, and much more skill and less strength is needed. It is a very pretty sight to see two expert Austrians fencing, the movements being more after the fashion of French School than anything else.

I now come to duelling with pistols, which custom

seems to be growing in favour very rapidly, owing to the little preparation necessary and the eminently satisfactory results to be arrived at. It is the only way in which officers and civilians fight, the swords being used almost exclusively by university men, but these latter also consider it as the most gentlemanly and polite way known of settling a serious dispute or avenging an insult. Such an encounter is of course a very formal affair, and the conditions under which the men fight are susceptible of considerable variation as regards distance and number of shots. Usually the men are placed fifteen paces apart with their pistols pointing towards the ground. Then the word is given to fire, and a certain interval allowed them to do it in, during which either may advance five paces towards his opponent, or stand still as he pleases. Sometimes neither party fires and then they begin again. As a rule one shot each is all that is allowed, but on special occasions an exchange of as many as four or more shots is arranged for beforehand.

Germans are, as a rule, bad shots, and very nervous and excitable, which accounts for the fact that a very large number of pistol duels are fought without anybody getting hurt, and sometimes they deem it necessary to make things sure by some such arrangement, as was come to by a couple of wild youths, one of whom I knew well. Both were studying in Munich; my acquaintance hailed from Bohemia and had already fought thirty-six duels, seven of which had been with the sabre and the rest with the Schlaeger. He had however, never fought one with pistols, and having been knocked senseless one day by a blow of a beer mug (I must give him his due when I say the assault was quite unprovoked), he made up his mind to indulge in a pistol duel which would be memorable in the annals of the university corps to which he belonged. His aggressor, a North German, was nothing loth, and accordingly it was arranged that they should stand six paces apart and exchange six shots. One morning at sunrise they stood facing each other with their weapons in their hands, the Bohemian as cool and steady as if his opponent had been a post, and the latter trembling so that he could hardly stand, although a brave man enough and an experienced duellist. Twice they fired, or rather the German, did, for curiously enough the Bohemian's pistol failed to go off each time, and the result was a bullet hole through the latter's ear. Then for the third time the word was given; the German's bullet went wide, the other's pistol went off as he was lifting it to take aim. Again the weapons were loaded and this time both were hit, the Bohemian in the hip, the German in the stomach, which ended the affair, as the latter could not stand up.

This little affair occurred in the year of our Lord 1882, and I can vouch for the truth of the above account in every particular.

It is seldom that Americans or Englishmen are given to duelling, but instances are on record in which they usually have distinguished themselves.

They are naturally better shots and much better fencers than the Germans, being far cooler and more self possessed. About two years ago, in Wurzburg, an American was grossly insulted on the street by a

captain in the infantry without having given any provocation whatever. The result was a challenge to fight with the sabre, but the officer insisted on pistols, the conditions being ten paces distance and three paces advance. At the word fire, the officer advanced immediately while the American stood still, and as soon as the other lifted his pistol to aim, shot him right through the head.

Enough about pistols. I have got only one more sort of duel to mention, and it is what the Germans and Austrians have the effrontery to term an "American" duel. This invention of the devil is a very simple but singularly effective way of making sure of an interesting termination to the encounter, and consists merely in the casting of dice by the principals, each binding himself by oath beforehand to commit suicide should he lose, within a specified time.

I was for sometime after I first heard of it, very loth to believe that such duels ever took place, but I satisfied myself that they did, and several instances have come under my notice. It always happens that the loser kills himself just before the allotted time expires. Why they call it an American duel, I have never been able to discover, for indeed only Germans could be so fanatical as to consent to risk their lives in such an absurd way.

The above is a plain, entirely unexaggerated account of how duels are fought in Europe to-day. It may seem strange to many that such an evil should flourish in our age of progress, but the more one sees of modern German society, the more easy it becomes to understand how such a state of things as I have described in this paper, can exist among people so highly cultivated as they are. All religious feeling is dead within them, and nothing has taken its place. Certainly the old love for God has not been replaced by love for their fellow men. They are pervaded with an absurdly high idea of their own individual importance, which causes them to look upon the most trivial things as insults, and a real insult as something that can only be satisfactorily settled by the death of one of those concerned. But what can be expected from a people who treat women in a way that savours even more of barbarism than duelling does?

W. T. SKAIFE.

### Every Fortnight.

A good idea has been cast away—an opportunity lost. It is now too late to think of a College concert this year. The thing might have been done had the spirit for it been abroad, but my suggestion fell on barren soil. In a small way however something may be done at the Theatre this week, when the students take possession of the Academy. Still for the older and staidier men like myself, a regular concert in the Molson Hall would have been preferable.

\* \* \*

A kind friend who has given me many thoughts says:—"Never excuse yourself nor give way to a fault or habit, because another has committed it, but form

the highest, noblest standard for yourself, and endeavour to follow it."

\* \* \*

Turning over the leaves of a book of poems, where, perchance, I might find some pretty lines for my readers in the GAZETTE—for often we do find some gems in the works of little known and obscure verse-makers—I came across this little poem having something of the same idea of a high ideal. I cannot say that I myself have ever formed any distinct ideal; in fact I am inclined to think it would be very difficult to form any such for a busy, everyday man in these practical times. Because an ideal must be a possible one to be worth much. The verses are entitled "Life Tapestry," and are of more merit from the thought expressed than from the word—clothing.

"Too long have I, methought, with tearful eye  
 " Pored o'er this tangled work of mine, and mused  
 " Above each stitch awry, and thread confused;  
 " Now will I think on what in years gone by  
 " I heard of them that weave rare tapestry  
 " At Royal looms, and how they constant use  
 " To work on the rough side, and still persevere  
 " The pictured pattern set above them high;  
 " So will I set MY COPY high above,  
 " And gaze and gaze till on my spirit grows  
 " Its gracious impress; till some line of love  
 " Transferred upon my canvass, faintly glows;  
 " Nor look too much on warp or woof, provide  
 " He whom I work for sees their fairer side."

\* \* \*

What a wonderful sway a man of intellect holds! But what a corresponding responsibility rests upon him! A trite subject. "Ships and armies you may replace, if they are lost," says Ruskin, "but a great intellect once abused, is a curse to the earth for ever."

\* \* \*

Do you think students should attempt to master the great English novelists? I do. But do you think that Arts students, during the session, should read novels? I do not. They have more than they can attend to. But I know of no healthier and pleasanter way for them to spend their holidays. I am very fond of good novels, and think they should be studied as well as read. There are such numbers of them, too, in our language, that one should never be tempted into reading the trash which thrives apace by their side. But beware of becoming intoxicated with this kind of literature. Such a thing is possible, believe me. But I hardly think there is much danger of the Arts students running into excess in this respect. A few of the cleverest may need a warning, but as far as I know the typical Arts student, a little more novel reading—and other kind of reading, too, outside his course,—would do him a great deal of good. My friend, the theological student, I venture to surmise, does not indulge overmuch in fiction. He has weightier matters to depress him. And yet I have read better sermons in the pages of a novel than ever I heard from a pulpit. My advice, then, is, use novels as a tonic, not as an intoxicant—but still use them.

\* \* \*

This subject of novel reading is one which is often regarded with prejudice, and "superstitions, errors

and prejudices," according to De Finod, "are cobwebs continually woven in shallow brains."

\* \* \*

The object of the University Club is "the promotion of social intercourse amongst its members." I am told that there is some doubt in the minds of certain learned men from the East as to the exact signification of the term "social intercourse." Does it include a bar? seems to be one of the questions mooted by the philologists.

\* \* \*

It seems strange to me that so few undergraduates think it worth their while to try and write for the GAZETTE—not necessarily for the sake of the paper, but for their own sakes. Nothing is so profitable as the cultivation of the art of expression. I understand that now and then some student with a grievance indulges in a letter, but that beyond this not much is attempted. These letter-writers are, as a rule, conceited numbskulls, itching to set the time according to their watches, which are always slow; ever ready to show what fine fellows they themselves are and in what manner everybody else is out of joint. These men go about with letters in their pockets, and if you by ill-luck answer one, they must needs run away and write another and make themselves conspicuous. If men of this stamp could only recognize their own inferiority, editors would save much space.

\* \* \*

What about that letter-rack? Has a lock been put on it yet, or do the authorities still neglect their duties? If so, just let me know.

CRITIC.

### McGill News.

Mr. F. Topp, '86, has been awarded the New Skakespeare Society's prize for 1885-6.

All the way from Berlin comes a rock section cutter and polisher for the museum. It is a compact little instrument and will no doubt enable some one to make a noise in the world.

The Primary Class in Medicine have rented a piano, each Monday and Friday evening they meet for singing practice. It is to be hoped they will be the nucleus of a College glee club.

The Arts' dinner will take place on Wednesday, Jan. 27th, at 8 p.m., in the Windsor. There is a new departure this year in the professors and graduates of the faculty being among those taking part. Nearly all the professors will grace the board, and several of the more recent graduates. Bring your song books!

The students of the Science Faculty held a meeting in the 4th Year Drafting Room on Monday the 10th inst., to make arrangements for having their annual dinner. A committee consisting of the Presidents of the four Years, the Secretary and Mr. J. H. Burland, Ap. Sc. '82, was authorized to make all ar-

rangements. It was determined to hold the dinner on the evening of Thursday, January 28th, at the Windsor Hotel, the price of tickets to be \$2.50.

The new Medical building narrowly escaped being injured by fire one evening last week. Some one carelessly threw the stump of a cigarette into a wooden spittoon, which was filled with dry saw-dust, in the reading room. When discovered, a considerable portion of the floor was charred and the spittoon burned. The janitor, with indomitable courage and much effort succeeded in quenching the conflagration with a small bucket of water. "You can't, you know," do without him.

The Junior Clinical class this year are very much pleased at having separate medical clinics at the hospital. Being removed from the Senior Class and having a special teacher, they have unbounded opportunities to become thoroughly grounded in the science and well prepared for the Senior year. They excel highly the systematic, energetic way in which they are taught, and are loud in praise of the manner in which they are allowed to practically acquaint themselves with the diseases presented.

The Museum recently received from England a "Magic Lantern" by which magnified images of microscopic objects can be made visible to a whole class at once by projection upon a screen. The instrument is provided with a costly Nichol's prism, an alum cell, a cell for animalcules, an apparatus for shewing the circulation of the blood in a frog's foot, and with a set of objectives. The lantern can be used either with the electric arc or the lime light. This instrument, made by Messrs. Wright and Newcomb, was on Exhibition at the Inventions Exhibition at South Kensington, London, and is novel in that it can be used equally well for lithological demonstrations. The beautiful phenomena produced in sections of crystals by polarized light can thus be studied at leisure. The late Dr. Carpenter was so impressed by the merits of this instrument that he had ordered a companion one for himself shortly before his death.

### CHRISTMAS EXAMINATIONS.

The following were not posted in time to publish in last number:—

ARTS.—2nd YEAR.

German.—Class I.—Martin, MacFarlane; \*McFee and \*Ritchie; \*Cross, \*Palmer, \*Van Horne. Class II.—\*Murphy, Murray. Class III.—Sweeney.

1st Year.—German.—Class I.—\*Johnson and Stevenson; Meighen, \*Morgan; Gibson and Grant. Class II.—None. Class III.—Lucas.

The following corrections apply to the lists published in last number:

Arts, 1st Year.—English.—Darey, Mills, Charters, McAdie; these names ought to be under 'Literature only.' English.—\*Darey ought to be Davey. 2nd Year.—Latin.—Fritchard, Sweeney, Evans ought to be inserted at the end of the list. Botany.—Truax, to be inserted as first in Class III. Psychology.—\*Darey ought to be Davey. Hebrew.—Tessot ought to be Vessot. 3rd Year.—Latin.—Langton ought to be Larkin. Zoology.—Brown and Gerrie, ought to read Bourne and Gerrie. Vegetable History, ought to read, Vegetable Histology.

## THE ARTS DINNER.

A meeting of the students in Arts was held on the 11th, in the Reading-room, Mr. F. Topp, President of the 4th year, in the chair.

The chairman opened the meeting with a few words enjoining on the younger years the duty of supporting the dinner. Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Hibbard, moved 'that the faculty hold its annual dinner'—carried. Mr. Livingstone then moved 'that the professors and graduates of Arts be invited to attend,' seconded by Mr. E. Holden. There was much discussion on this motion. Mr. Bell, seconded by Mr. Evans, '86, moved 'that the dinner be a students' one.' The chairman called on the younger years for an opinion; and, in reply, Mr. Curtis spoke advocating the presence of the professors.

The amendment proposed by Mr. Bell, in regard to having the professors, was then put and lost. The original motion, to have an invitation extended to the professors and graduates of the faculty, was carried by a sweeping majority. Mr. E. Holden then nominated Mr. F. Pedley as chairman of the dinner, seconded by Mr. Chalmers: but the meeting decided to conform to the usual rule and have the President of the 4th year for chairman of the dinner. It was then moved 'that the officers of the various years be the dinner committee': this was amended to the effect that Messrs. Pedley and Livingstone, '86, Murray and Colby, '87, Curtis and Pedley, '88, and Deeks and Evans, '89, be the committee: the amendment was carried. The meeting broke up after conveying a request to the committee that the dinner be held in the Windsor, and during the present month.

## MR. STUDD'S ADDRESS.

Mr. J. E. K. Studd is a graduate of the University of Cambridge who during this winter is visiting the American colleges. Being in Montreal with Mr. Moody, at the request, we understand, of Sir Wm. Dawson he addressed a meeting of about 200 students in Morrice Hall. The Principal was in the chair and on the platform were professors of the Arts and Science Faculties and representatives from the theological colleges.

Mr. Studd is one of a group of men whose names have been brought before the public, especially in England. One of the group is Stanley Smith, once the stroke car of the Cambridge eight and now a missionary in the interior of China. Along with him went six others to China, one of whom is Mr. C. F. Studd, who was a splendid cricketer and was on the English eleven. Mr. Studd's address was a simple straightforward narration of the connection of these athletic students with Mr. Moody's meetings at Cambridge; of their subsequent visit to Oxford, and Edinburgh and Glasgow; and of their departure from England and voyage to China. It is impossible to mention here any of the many interesting incidents mentioned in his story. It is sufficient to say that all who heard him were intensely interested; and there is a strong desire to hear from him again. It is very probable that this desire will be gratified, as Mr. Studd is likely

to visit Montreal some time in February. Should he come he will without doubt meet a much larger audience than was able to hear him on his former visit.

The Sunday afternoon meeting could not be held on the 10th, as the rooms of the Montreal Y. M. C. A. were closed on account of the flood.

## THE LADIES' CLASSES.

Mr. Mulgan, lecturer in Classics, began a course of lectures to the lady students on Greek literature, in the Redpath Museum lecture theatre, on Thursday last.

Sir William Dawson, who, with several other professors, was present, said that it might be interesting to those who have been engaged in the work of the Ladies' Educational Association to know what is now being done by the University under the Donalds endowment, and to what extent it is carrying out the work handed over to it by the Association. In the present session the total number of students is fifty-one. Of these twelve are undergraduates and nine are partials, taking three or more courses of lectures. The remainder are occasionals, taking one or two courses of lectures. It would thus appear that, so far, the number is not quite as great as in some of the larger classes of the Association. On the other hand, the number of lectures taken by each student is much greater, and it is to be anticipated that in future sessions, as the number of years in the undergraduate course and the number of lectures open to occasionals increase, the attendance will increase in proportion. It is to be observed also that at the opening of the session several students in this, as in other departments, were prevented from presenting themselves by the epidemic then prevalent. In the present session there are regular students only in two years, and the classes open to women are those in latin, greek, english, french, german, logic, mathematics, chemistry and botany. Next session there will be regular students in three years, and separate classes for women will be open in experimental physics, zoology, advanced logic and rhetoric. In the session after next there will be students in all the four years, and separate classes in mental and moral philosophy, geology and history, in addition to the foregoing. It will be reasonable to expect that when the classes in the whole course are thus in operation, and so great variety offered to occasional students, the number of students will be nearly doubled. We are prepared to find that, for some years, the number of partial and occasional students shall be large, in comparison with that of undergraduates. It is hoped, however, that, as the advantages of the regular course become better known and facilities for preparation are afforded in the schools, the number of undergraduates will increase. To this end the University would beg to invite the attention of parents, and especially of those ladies who have heretofore aided in the work of the Association, to the importance of cultivating a taste for the higher education, and of sending young women to those schools which provide an adequate preparatory training. In the arrangements for the third and

fourth years it will be provided that there shall be separate classes for women in all the ordinary subjects up to the standard for the degree, giving them all the options enjoyed by male students. In each subject the lectures to men and women will be delivered by the same professor or lecturer, and the examinations will be identical. The degrees to be given have not yet been formally decided by the corporation, but it may be considered as settled that they will be the same for women as for men.

M. Mulgan's course consists of ten lectures, the first three of which will treat of Homer's works, while the remaining seven will comprise three different phases of early Greek Literature, the Drama, Philosophy, History and Oratory.

### Societies.

#### UNIVERSITY LITERARY SOCIETY.

A meeting of this society was held on the evening of Friday the 8th inst. There were present Mr. McGoun, President, in the chair, and Messrs. Brooke, Smith, Colquhoun, Doherty, Selkirk Cross, Sproule, Turner, Ferguson, Budden, Ritchie, Parmalee, Barnard, Revd. G. Rogers, Elliot, and a large number of visitors.

The programme for the evening was an essay by the Revd. Prof. Clarke Murray, LL.D. upon Bishop Berkeley. Want of space prevents us from publishing the paper in full, and no synopsis could give any just report, either of the profound knowledge displayed by the learned essayist in his treatment of the subject, or the finished and scholarly manner in which the essay was composed and delivered.

The discussion upon the paper was opened by Messrs. Doherty and Selkirk Cross, who were followed by a number of others. All the speakers appeared to be considerably beyond their depth; but displayed however no lack of a rather crude and hasty imagination if they did not shine as metaphysicians or idealistic philosophers. It was rather amusing however, to hear our noted objector to other men's opinions, stagger the whole assembly of philosophers with the bold assertion that mind was an object in space: probably this accounts for his running his head against so many people.

A meeting of this society was held on Friday evening the 15th inst. Mr. C. J. Brooke first vice-president in the chair. The question for debate was, "Should a representative in Parliament continue to vote according to his own opinion, when he knows it to be at variance with the general voice of his constituents"? Messrs. Leet and Ferguson spoke for the Affirmative and Messrs. Brooke and Unsworth for the Negative. The debate was in every respect a good one. The regularly appointed speakers conducted the discussion in a manner which evidenced thought on, and careful preparation of their speeches. The voluntary speeches by Messrs. C. S. Campbell, J. P. Cooke, A. G. Cross and W. J. Sproule were very good. The subject, in view of the recent action of some of our public men, embodied a live issue; and it was this probably which made it so interesting to some members of the society

who, we understand, are looking towards an entrance upon political life at no very distant day. Besides being a live issue, it was eminently a practical and useful subject for discussion; and we must congratulate the General Committee of the society upon the evident care with which they have prepared their programmes, so far this season.

#### UNDERGRADUATES' LITERARY SOCIETY.

The meetings of this society for the spring term were opened on Jan., 8th, by an address by Principal Sir. Wm. Dawson. The meeting was one of the most successful ever held by the society, fifty five members and visitors being present: among those present were Mr. N. P. Yates, the President in the chair, Messrs. Mason, Lerossignol, Hersey, England, Garth, Lucas, McArthur, Bryan, Holden, Livingstone, Pedley, McOutat, Hibbard, Cameron, Murd, McKenzie, Patton Curtis, McPhail, Henderson, Walsh, Charters, Moore, Robertson, Patterson, McLeod, Watt, Hislop and W. G. Stewart, (B.A.). The very varied programme commenced with a spirited reading of "The Battle of Inckermann," by Mr. Watt. Then the morals of the society were looked to by Mr. Hislop who gave "A Temperance Lecture," which was received amid much uproar.

At this point Sir. Wm. came into the room and was received with an ovation. Mr. Curtis gave a reading called, "Bob. Browning's Account of Rubenstein's Playing."

The President then introduced Sir. Wm. with a few appropriate remarks. This address by the Principal, the main feature of the programme, was full of interest to every member of the society, treating as it did of the various ways to acquire the art of public speaking. In the course of the address it was said, that public speaking was better learned in a debating society than in a class-room. After the conclusion of his remarks, Sir. Wm. left the room amid cheers, and "He's a Jolly Good Fellow."

W. G. Stewart, B.A., then took the lead in the popular song, "Jingle Bells," Messrs. Patton, Evans and Stewart, gave songs at various intervals. A vote of thanks for his address was sent in to Sir. Wm. Dawson. The special committee for the spring term was elected: the ballot resulted in appointing the following, Messrs. Pedley (F.), Murray, Curtis, Hibbard, McPhail. The chairman then closed the meeting after a few remarks on the advantages of the society: he pointed out to the Freshman the benefits to be derived from its meetings.

The meeting on Jan. 15th was called to order at 8 p.m., by Mr. R. Henderson, the Vice-President, about twenty members being present. E. De F. Holden was appointed critic for the evening. Mr. F. Topp gave notice of the following motion, That Mr. N. P. Yates, the President, and Mr. H. Curtis be appointed a committee to wait upon Mr. John Andrew, Instructor in Elocution, with the view of procuring an address from that gentleman upon the principles of elocution, to be delivered before the society some time next month: seconded by Mr. J. W. McOutat.

Mr. J. A. McPhail opened the programme with an essay on "Prince Edward Island." The debate was

on the subject, "Resolved that Woman Suffrage should be Adopted in Canada." The affirmative side was supported by Messrs. J. McOuat, Ryan, Pritchard; victory declared itself for the affirmative, which found supporters in Messrs. Yates, Garth, and Chartiers. Mr. P. E. Ritchie read "The Fate of Young Chubb." After Mr. Holden's critique, the meeting adjourned.

### Sporting.

#### FOOTBALL.

The Committee of the Football Club is now busy raising a fund for the purpose of purchasing an Inter-faculty Challenge Cup by means of ten-cent subscriptions. The success so far is gratifying and it is to be hoped that it will continue so.

#### HOCKEY.

A general meeting of the Hockey Club was held at the Crystal Rink, Thursday the 7th inst., after the practice. The Secretary, Mr. Swabey, who was the delegate to the Tournament Committee, notified the club of the arrangements made for matches, changes of rules, etc. The club then proceeded to the election of Captain when the President, Mr. A. Weir, was unanimously chosen for that position. It is to be hoped that under the energetic direction of the new Captain the team will give a good account of itself this winter.

### Personals.

Mr. A. A. McKay, B.A., '84, responded to the toast of 'sister universities' at Law Students, Supper, Dalhousie College.

The many friends of J. W. McMeekin, M.D., C.M., '85 will regret to hear of the death of his wife of puerperal fever, which sad event occurred at St. Catharines December 31st, 1885.

Mr. A. B. Osborne, who was prevented by illness from waiting for his degree in Medicine last spring, successfully passed a special examination, given to him during the Christmas vacation, and has since been appointed House Surgeon in the Hamilton General Hospital.

D. W. Eberts, M.D., who has been one of the hospital staff since he graduated in '85, has received the appointment of House Surgeon to the Winnipeg Hospital. The Dr. is sure to be a success in his new position. He carries with him the best wishes of the professors and students of the college, and is sure to be much missed by the hospital staff here.

Prof. N. W. Trenholme has returned from England, where he has been for some time past, conducting a case before the Privy Council, and has resumed his lectures in the Faculty of Law. The learned Prof. is looking none the worse for his trip; on behalf of the law students, we welcome him back to the classrooms. No professor is held in higher esteem among them.

## McGill University Gazette.

### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The Annual General Meeting of the subscribers to the Guarantee Fund, will be held on

*Monday Evening, 1st February next.*

**AT 8 O'CLOCK,**

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