

Cambridge scholar considered that the *first* place in either Mathematical or Classical Honours might be estimated as worth ten thousand pounds. In a recent biography of Bishop Selwyn, justly honoured on both sides of the Atlantic, the preposterous estimate is offered that a Fellowship was equivalent to sixty thousand pounds. However, when reduced to sober fact, the value of a Fellowship, direct and indirect, is a substantial amount; and on the average, the first six or seven wranglers succeed in obtaining fellowships. Hence arise many distinctive characteristics of the University system; for instance the severe competition and the strong excitement connected with the examinations for honours. To this it is owing that the mathematical instruction is almost entirely in the hands of *private tutors*; every candidate seeks for the special training which may best suit him in his struggle for distinction in the examinations. Thus, too, it happens that the professors of

the University, though men of the most conspicuous ability and reputation, do not gain many hearers of their lectures. Quite recently a distinguished Professor gave a course of lectures to a single student; the notebook of the student showed that the course had been extremely good. Perhaps, however, the attempt to teach the higher parts of mathematics by lectures is a mistake, and should now be abandoned in favour of the publication of standard treatises.

The Universities of Oxford and Cambridge are at present in the hands of Commissioners appointed by Parliament for the sake of effecting changes and reforms. Time will shew whether any success attends their efforts; the united revenues of the colleges in the two Universities cannot fall short of half a million of pounds annually, and all must wish that such a large income should be expended in the most advantageous manner.

THE HUMAN EYE: ITS STRUCTURE, FUNCTIONS, DEFECTS, AND PRESERVATION.

BY T. W. MILLS, M.A., M.D., RESIDENT PHYSICIAN OF HAMILTON CITY HOSPITAL.

THE human eye has been, since poets sung, the theme of rapturous description in their undying numbers; its glances have kindled into devotion more hearts than all the rest of the features of the face combined; its use brings more knowledge than any other sense, perhaps than all the others, apart altogether from reading, by which latter, by the way, less of our real knowledge is acquired than we suppose. In barbarous ages the greatest punishment inflicted, short of death, was the loss of the eyes. The blind

are, universally, objects of the greatest pity; yet in view of all this there is, if not a sad lack of knowledge in regard to the means of preserving the eyesight, certainly a lamentable decay in the world's ocular power in the mass, and an ever-increasing necessity to use at a very early age the various forms of "artificial eyes"—one of the results of our "advanced civilization" of which we are wont in this century to be so proud. Before the discovery of printing and the diffusion of reading matter, any sort of dissertation on