

The colonial who comes to Oxford is sure of a warm welcome, both from other colonials and from the English students, when once he has broken through their British reserve and stolidity. A Colonial Club was founded last year, and in November held a most successful dinner. Just as in Canada, when a club desires to assure the world of its existence, it has itself photographed, so in England under similar circumstances, it gathers together and eats a dinner, a difference which one is tempted to consider symbolic of a deeper difference in national characteristics. Most of the colonies are represented on its list of members; the president is a Canadian, and any Canadian who comes to Oxford would do well to join it.

The degree of B.A. at Oxford may be attained either by a pass or by an honor course. The pass course takes three years; its standard is about as high—or rather as low—as that of the ordinary pass degree at Queen's, and appeals chiefly to two classes, those who are going into the church, and those who wish to enjoy the social life of the 'varsity undisturbed by severe examinations. The chief honor courses are those in mathematics, which take four years; those in modern history and in law which may be taken in either three or four, and that in litteral humaniores, which takes four years, and gives a thorough training in classics, philosophy and ancient history. This course, which leads up to a more or less distinguished class in "Greats," is the special pride and boast of Oxford. The first year and a half are spent in the study of pure classics, the remainder being devoted to ancient Greek and Roman history, logic, ethics and metaphysics. The training is as thorough as can be found anywhere in the world, and brings men in contact with many of the most distinguished English scholars and philosophers. The modern history school is also a very fine one and is yearly becoming more popular; some of the best work of Freeman and of Froude was done while they held the chair of English history. The theology school cannot be recommended, although Oxford possesses such men as Driver, Cheyne and Sanday; there is much cynicism, but also much truth in the advice given to a friend of mine who intends taking orders in the English church, "Don't take the theology school; take history; it will open your mind so much more." As compared with Cambridge, it may be said that in mathematics, in spite of the hallowed associations which in the estimation of the vulgar still cling to the name of senior wrangler, Oxford is at least the equal of her sister university, while on the other hand in pure classics Cambridge is if anything superior. In medicine Cambridge is far superior, but in history, whether ancient or modern, and in

philosophy she cannot compare with Oxford. There has recently been instituted in Oxford a course leading to the degree of B. Litt., intended to stimulate original research; this course should in time attract many who now go to John Hopkins, or to the German universities. Two years' residence in Oxford (academic years) is compulsory, after which the degree may be taken at any subsequent time. The subject which the applicant desires to pursue must be found satisfactory by a board appointed for the purpose; no preliminary examination is required, but the candidate must satisfy the board that he has had a good general education. At some time after the two years of residence, a thesis on the subject chosen must be presented; there is no other examination. Historical subjects are naturally the most frequently chosen, but any subject which the board considers satisfactory may be taken up.

At present I know of one man who is investigating an early French company, which had rights in Canada from 1630 to 1660, and of another who is studying the minor poets of the eighteenth century. Last year degrees were taken by men who offered, one the beginnings of party government in England, the other some obscure mathematical questions, which, so far as I could understand it, seemed to be connected with the Fourth Dimension. The standard is very high, and the candidate must really do honest and original work. To anyone who may think himself able to satisfy these requirements, I cannot too highly recommend this course. Further information regarding it may be obtained from the secretary of the Board of Research Degrees, Oxford University.

A man becomes a member of the university by joining himself to a college, of which there are twenty-three, or by entering his name at the non-Collegiate Delegacy. If he join a College, he must reside at least two years of his course within its walls, unless he be specially exempted from this rule; if he become a non-Collegiate student, he lives in any of the licensed lodging houses in the town. If he join a College he must go on to take a degree; if the Delegacy, he need not do so, and this is therefore the plan adopted by those who do not wish to take any special course, but merely to attend certain lectures.

To the expenses of a course at Oxford no limit can be placed. I know of one man who ran through \$35,000 in a year, and of another who in eight weeks accumulated \$8,500 of debt. But such cases are exceptional. On entering a College the beginner deposits \$100 to \$125 as caution money, which is returned to him at the end of his course, if his behaviour has been satisfactory. He pays \$25 for