

We sincerely hope that this change is but temporary, is only a foretaste of future exactness by which the degree of Bachelor of Arts shall be required of every student who aspires to enter the medical or legal profession.

THE EXAMINATIONS.

The examinations are upon us. Object as we may, suggest other tests of scholarship, declaim against the element of chance that forms so large a part in the trial, we shall still not succeed in having the examinations abolished. They have come to stay. Tradition and experience stamp them with the seal of wisdom; modern progress has so far devised no satisfactory substitute. And so we must face the ordeal. What does success or failure represent?

Well, success may mean that we were lucky, found the papers to our liking, and did not suffer from nervousness; failure may prove that we were confronted with any or all of these evils. But in nine cases out of ten success or failure has no such meaning whatever. They represent, when stripped of all ambiguous phraseology, either shimming, idleness and deception on the one hand; or perseverance, work and honesty on the other. They are a test not only of the intellectual development of the student, but of his moral worth and personal character, and as such they form a very certain index of the future.

But the results of examinations tell us something more. They indicate with almost infallible accuracy the appreciation in which students hold the sacrifices made by parents in order that their children may enjoy the opportunity of acquiring a liberal education. In many instances, particularly among our Catholic people, the keeping of a son at college entails deprivations upon the less favoured mem-

bers of the family, the extent of which few imagine and to which least value is attached by those most benefitted. The results of examinations indicate whether we have to deal with heartless ingrates, or with noble young men who feel as did Daniel Webster when his father first proposed sending him to college. "The very idea," says the great orator and statesman, "thrilled my whole frame. I remember that I was quite overcome. The thing appeared to me so high, the expense and sacrifice it was to cost my father so great, I could only press his hand and shed tears. Excellent, excellent parent! I cannot think of him, even now, without turning child again."

EDITORIAL NOTES.

We offer our sincere congratulations to Very Rev. Father Laurent, of Lindsay and Vicar-General of the diocese of Peterborough, on being raised to the dignity of a domestic prelate by the Pope.

In spite of the fact that education without moral training, was never before so common, crime continues to increase in the United States. The *Chicago Tribune* supplies these statistics:

	Murders	Suicides	Lynchings.
1895.....	10,500	5,759	171
1894.....	9,800	4,912	190
1893.....	6,615	4,436	200
1892.....	6,784	3,860	235
1891.....	5,906	3,331	192
1890.....	4,290	2,040	127

If a system of unsectarian schools be the palladium of our liberties, it certainly is not the plan to train up a child in the way he should go.

Early in April a Catholic congress was held at Lima, the metropolis of the Republic of Peru, South America. The object of this gathering was to rally all the Catholic forces for the defense of the rights and liberties of the Church whenever these are menaced by the secret societies that exercise in South America, as in every other country, so large an influence in state affairs.

Rev. Sebastian Bowden will shortly issue a work dealing with the religious belief of Shakespeare. The reverend author believes from the researches he has made