

ever, we have stepped aside from our usual course to give our readers the benefit of the remarks of a writer in the *Atlantic Monthly* for September on "English as a College study." Our reason for so doing will be understood by all conversant with the internal economy of Queen's, or for that matter of almost every other college, for, as the writer suggests, nearly all are deplorably deficient in that branch of study. That sufficient attention can be given to this study by a Professor of English Literature and Rhetoric, who is also Professor of History and of Modern Languages, is something that no one at all acquainted with the importance of the study would for a moment dare to maintain, especially when that Professor has also classes to attend to in another College.

As far as essay writing is concerned, it is only in the classes of Metaphysics and Ethics that the student in Queen's receives any regular training in composition. And indeed in these classes we doubt if such training would be given had not the necessity for it been forcibly impressed by repeated "awful examples" on the mind of the Professor. In fact it was partially the recognition of this want that led over six years ago to the establishment of the QUEEN'S COLLEGE JOURNAL. But it is time that a greater effort was made in this direction than ever has been made. Even our schools are lacking in this respect, and no one at all acquainted with the papers handed in at the matriculation examinations at our Colleges, would dream of asserting that students know English when they enter College. Let this fact be borne in mind when the "Senatus" are apportioning the comparative value of the classes, and let them gravely consider whether in this day and generation, such a class as that of History should be optional in a Canadian University. And if it be found—as we think it will be when sufficient thought is given to the subject—

that one Professor is unable to give that attention to every branch which a thorough instruction in English requires, we hope in the establishment of those new Professorships of which Dame Rumor speaks, the claims of our native language will not be forgotten.

A CHANGE in the arrangement of the Medical Examinations before the University is greatly needed. The Ontario Medical Council, after trying yearly examinations, have had to return to the old Primary and Final, and their Calendar is now in all probability permanently settled, so that a change made by the University would not have to be recalled in a year or two. In order that the student preparing for the two examinations may work to the greatest advantage the University Primary should be made optional at the end of the second or the third year. As now arranged the student must prepare his Primary work for the Council at the end of the second year, and then pass on the same work before the University the following session. This certainly tends to greater efficiency in those branches, but it is acquired at the expense of the Final work which has now to be systematically crammed in one year—the fourth. The first course of Finals is now the merest farce, a sheer loss of time indeed, for attendance is given simply for the sake of obtaining the ticket; the student busily engaged in preparing for his first examination is not able to pay attention to these lectures outside of the class-room, and so derives scarcely any benefit from them.

If the change we advocate was adopted the first two years would be devoted entirely to Primary, the last two entirely to Final studies. No time would then be lost in routine attendance on lectures, while ample opportunity would be given for *working in*