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CONTENTS OF CURRENT NUMBER.

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES—	PAGE
The University of Toronto and Medical Education.....	527
University Federation.....	527
Scenes in Hawaii.....	528
Literary Plagiarism.....	528
The Emperor Nicholas.....	530
Literary Notes from Paris.....	530
CORRESPONDENCE—	
Farming in Pennsylvania and Ontario.....	Fair-Play Radical, 531
Sunday Cars.....	D, 531
TOPICS—	
The French in Canada.....	532
The Lumber Trade and Reciprocity.....	532
The Agitation in Manitoba.....	532
Protection of Tenant Right in Ireland.....	532
Mr. Gladstone on the Crimes Bill.....	532
The Crimes Bill and the Lords.....	533
Liberal-Unionist Reverses.....	533
Glaustonian Concessions.....	533
The Bulgarian Question.....	533
Women at the Universities.....	533
NOTES.....	
A PARVARIATION (POEM).....	Thomas Franklin Watson, 534
THE PHILOSOPHY OF SNOBBERY.....	A Snob, 534
NOTES FROM THE ROCKIES.....	E. S., 535
BOOKS—RECENT MISCELLANY.....	535
LATER MAGAZINES.....	536
ARTIST AND ACTOR.....	E. S., 536
CURRENT COMMENT.....	537
NEW MUSIC.....	537
OUR LIBRARY TABLE.....	537

THE UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO AND MEDICAL EDUCATION.

It is interesting to observe that the University of Toronto is about to engage in a movement somewhat similar to that which is at present taking place at Oxford and Cambridge. In those ancient universities, and especially in the former, the study of medicine had almost become extinct. It is true degrees were still conferred after examination, but the medical training had to be acquired elsewhere, for the teaching staff in both institutions was entirely inadequate to furnish a complete course of instruction. Of the two, Cambridge, with Addenbrooke's hospital and its staff formed of University teachers, was decidedly in the better position to undertake medical instruction, but within the last year or two Oxford has seen some important changes in the same direction. This revival of medical education in the English Universities is undoubtedly due to the great influence exercised in Cambridge by Professor Michael Foster, the distinguished Physiologist, and to the late Professor F. M. Balfour, whose labours in Embryology made his name famous and attracted an earnest band of students to his school, before his too early death deprived the University of one of its foremost investigators. The influence of these men altered the feeling in the University with regard to the Natural Sciences, and students were led to proceed to an Honour Degree in Arts by devoting themselves to the philosophy of these sciences. So in Oxford the appointment of Burdon Sanderson as physiologist, and of Moseley as successor to Rolleston, has been productive of similar results; and thus the way has been prepared in both institutions for an increased interest in medical education.

With an established hospital, little was required in Cambridge but the appointment of men to look after the peculiarly medical sciences such as Pathology; and the association of distinguished investigators like Roy and MacAlister with the University has fortified its position in this way, so that Cambridge is now able to give most thorough and complete training in all the preliminary, as well as the purely medical sciences. Of course it cannot compete with London in facilities for the practical branches of the profession, but its training is, in so far, a necessary complement to the kind of training given at most of the London Hospital Schools, as the latter have been too prone to neglect the scientific aspect of medical education; indeed, research in the medical sciences, according to a recent writer, is prosecuted more successfully in a host of petty towns in Germany than it is in the British metropolis.

So much neglected was medicine at the English Universities that it had become the custom with English practitioners either to dispense with a University Degree altogether, or to proceed to a Scottish University to secure one, a custom which has largely contributed to the growth and development of the Northern Universities. Since its inauguration the University of London has had a constantly increasing number of applicants for degrees, who have, however, on account of the severity of the examinations, been inclined to look upon her rather as a *dura mater* than as an *alma mater*. The system of the University of London, in fact, which only imposes a test of examination, without providing the training, is

found to be unsatisfactory, and has originated an agitation to convert the University into a teaching as well as an examining body.

It is in this direction that recent legislation modifies the plan of the University of Toronto, originally modelled after the London system, which has been found to have the same disadvantages here as there. The disadvantage has not been felt so much in the Arts Faculty, on account of the intimate relationship of the University with University College; but it has been felt, especially of recent years, in the Medical Faculty, and it is on this account that it has been determined that the University shall in future control the training as well as impose the examinations for the degrees in medicine.

With this end in view, it is proposed to add a complete staff of teachers to the scientific staff of the University, so that a thorough course of instruction in practical as well as in scientific medicine may be given. Overtures have been made to the existing medical schools, with the result that while Trinity Medical School remains an independent corporation, the Toronto Medical School suspends its charter, and the greater part of its teachers are to be transferred to the Medical Faculty of the University, with new duties assigned to them by the Senate, which, furthermore, will distribute the receipts from students in such a way as to make the Medical Faculty self-supporting, and develop the facilities for teaching. It is understood that appointments and re-appointments to the staff are only to be for terms of five years, an arrangement which, it is thought, will tend to keep the teaching abreast of University requirements.

In this way medical education, instead of being left entirely in the hands of irresponsible corporations, will be brought within the national system of education, and thus be more in harmony with the aims of the Provincial University.

We trust that, as in the English Universities, this change may give a stimulus to scientific medical education, and to scientific research throughout the Province; while the admirable hospital facilities of Toronto will continue to afford a thorough grounding in all the branches of practical medicine.

UNIVERSITY FEDERATION.

We have frequently insisted upon the importance of the efforts which have been made to bring about the federation of the various Universities and Colleges of Ontario; and, whilst we rejoice that so much has been done, we must confess our fear of a not improbable failure of the scheme as a whole. The Baptists, instead of uniting with the University of Toronto, have obtained a charter for a University of their own. Trinity College, after appearing to regard the new scheme favourably, has discovered that the cost of making the change is too great. The Corporation cannot afford to sacrifice their present buildings, and there is no probability of their being purchased for any other purpose. Still further, it becomes increasingly doubtful whether Victoria College will be able to make the change. Little more than half the needed amount has been raised or promised, and every one knows how difficult it is to raise the last thousand or twenty thousand dollars. The original opponents of the measure are getting sanguine in the expectation that, as far as Victoria University is concerned, no change will be made.

In the meantime, Mr. Ross has carried his scheme through the Legislative Assembly of Ontario, although it would appear that Mr. Mowat's Ministry cannot make up their minds to ask the country for money enough to fill up all the professorships which are provided for in the Act. On one important consequence of the lack of means it is necessary to say a few words. In order to obtain room for lecture halls within the building, it is proposed to destroy the students' rooms, and so necessarily the system of residence in the College. This is a very serious change, and should be thoroughly considered before it is carried into effect. It is quite true that the residential system has been given up at most of the German Universities, in the University of France, at all the Scottish Universities, and at a good many of the American Universities and Colleges; but we imagine that this has been done as a matter of necessity rather than of choice, and it is generally felt by those who have had experience of both methods that there are advantages connected with residence within the walls of the College which non-residents do not share.

One of the great benefits of University life arises from the discipline