

to be said, however, that this latter mistake has been rectified, though the other has not. Finally, in 1896 Trinity was passed over in the appointment of head examiners, and no satisfactory explanation of the omission has yet been given.

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On account of the unsatisfactory state of affairs generally and of the almost complete disregard of the old understanding already mentioned, representations were made last year to the Minister, with the result that he introduced a bill during the session of 1896 which changed the number of members of the Board or, according to its new name, the Council, from eight to eleven, the President of the University of Toronto being chairman *ex-officio* and the appointment of the other ten members being left in the hands of the Minister. Though this act of 1896 neither made provision for the revision of the curriculum by the Universities, nor left the Council a free hand in the appointment of examiners and associate examiners, it was a decided advance upon the former order of things. In the appointments made under its provisions, regard was had to the claims of the independent Universities to representation upon the Council, and this, it is only fair to suppose, may be taken as a recognition of the good work they are doing for higher education and of their loyalty to the Joint Scheme for Matriculation in the face of the fact that they did not approve of the details of its working out. While it must never be forgotten that Trinity has more than once declared against federation, still, if its advocates outside of Trinity circles wish to see this University enter it, it may not be out of place to drop the hint that she is not at all likely to reverse her adverse decision, unless she receives still more recognition than that given by the act of 1896. Nor will she reverse it if the policy of exclusion should be reverted to.

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As no other reason has been assigned for the passing of the new Act, it can only be supposed that the objections made to the Act of 1896 by the Senate of the University of Toronto have had some weight. Why half of the whole number of the Council is hereafter to be appointed by that body, it is somewhat difficult to understand, and no satisfactory reason for this being so has been publicly stated. From the standpoint of educational interests generally, it seems much better that some other method and basis of representation should be devised. It will be much to be regretted if this Act means a reversion to the order of things existing prior to 1896, for that would be retrograding.

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What the provisions of the new act are beyond the one affecting the representation has not yet been learned. If they have not already found a place in it, it is desirable that the questions of appointing examiners and of making curricula should be dealt with next session in a manner that will satisfy all parties interested. Examiners and associate examiners should be selected from University professors and lecturers and from the High School masters generally, and not merely from those whose names appear on a list submitted by the Minister.

When the question of representation has been properly arranged, the Council should be entrusted with the task of revising the common matriculation curriculum from time to time after consulting with the Universities and other institutions affected by the examination. The Law School and the Medical Council surely ought to have something to say in the matter.

It might be well also to head the papers differently so as to place beyond doubt the fact that the examination is for the Universities and not for any University in particular.

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Twice the University of Toronto has taken the initiative in the matter of holding conferences for the purpose of re-

modelling the matriculation curriculum. At the first, held in 1890, votes were taken and, on motion of one of Trinity's representatives, a definite standard for passing was adopted. For some unexplained reason no votes were taken at the second, held in 1894, and important changes were made after the conference without being submitted to Trinity, Queen's, and McMaster, which last, however, has not so free a hand as the other two have.

As the present curriculum runs out in 1898, it is time for Trinity to consider what her attitude is to be, whether she is to allow herself to be sidetracked again, or is to withdraw altogether from an arrangement to which she agreed upon conditions with have been only partially fulfilled.

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There are four courses open to Trinity—first, to hold her own examination at Toronto as she used to do in early days; secondly, to combine with Queen's and hold an examination in Kingston and Toronto, as was done in later times; thirdly, either alone or in partnership with Queen's, to hold examinations, as McGill does, at any point where they may be asked for; and, fourthly, to accept all students, except candidates for scholarships, without examination upon presentation from the headmaster of a High School a certificate that they are fit to profit by a University course. In the present state of affairs the fourth way of doing has much to recommend it, for, among other things, the country seems to be pretty certain to hail with delight radical measures of reform, especially if the number of subjects to be taken can be decreased and, at the same time, greater efficiency be secured in the smaller number to be required.

## MATRICULATION.

Whatever may be the cause at the present time, there is just now considerable discussion in college and out, on the present system of university matriculation. Without denying the usefulness in many cases of such a qualification, it is unfair to some to carry out strictly the rule that one and all must pass the examination as now carried out by the department. That every undergraduate should have a good general grounding, previous to his university course, must be acknowledged; but his matriculation certificate is not in every case conclusive proof that he has had such preparation as will enable him to read with advantage for the degree of B.A. With honour men especially is this the case. In colleges where the Honour courses include a great deal of reading outside of the department itself, such a course may be advisable, in that it allows the student to pay less attention to the other work, and thereby to give more time to his special course. In the case of pass men the present course may have some advantages. It is framed, however, more especially to fit the curriculum of the Provincial University. It is not adapted in every respect to the needs of Trinity men, and might therefore be dispensed with very often without loss. For instance, to pass the Matriculation Examination at present, the candidate must take, at least, three languages. If he goes to Toronto, he must continue them during his course. If he comes to Trinity he is required to take only two,—except in the case of moderns. His work, therefore, on his matriculation course will be lost, not because he is not here required to pass in the third language, but because what little he has learned of it is quite useless to him. It is impossible to arrange any preparatory course that will meet the needs of several universities at the same time, and our present system is a case in point. It seems therefore only just that some provision should be made by which the matriculation could, in some cases at least, be dispensed with. The Honour man, as we said before, is subject to a greater injustice. Either he must spend a