

dread of our Upper Chamber and ultimately join our ranks.

Though on account of the probable removal next session no extensive alterations have been made in the College building, many improvements are now noticeable. Our waiting room has been enlarged, the old partition running across it has accepted the hints given last winter, and quietly disappeared without testing again the quality of our shoe leather. A Reading Room has been fitted up and to it the Professors have kindly offered to contribute the various Medical publications of the day. The classrooms have received all needed repairs, while the—but only the initiated are allowed to penetrate further into the secret chambers of a Medical School, so here we must pause.

During the vacation our Faculty with that spirit of progress which has always characterized their actions have determined to open a Woman's Medical College. As this is a new departure in Canada they will doubtless have to bear the sneers and slurs of a few old fogies who "lag superfluous on the stage," but that the intelligent verdict of the people will support them is beyond a doubt. The success of their plan is already assured by the number of applicants for admittance, showing not only the need of such an institution, but also the alertness of the ladies to seize the first opening offered them in this branch of study. May the new venture receive the hearty support which it so richly merits. The only ground of complaint which we, as students, can suggest is that the ladies cannot behave themselves well enough to take their classes with us. The fault must be theirs for *our good conduct* is proverbial.

The following is a list of the Freshmen in Medicine:

A. B. Cornell,	W. Hall,
Chas. Fry,	A. P. Knight, M.A.,
C. G. McCammon,	J. Stirling,
L. Davis,	T. G. Wade,
R. W. Garrett, B.A.,	J. Hayward,
W. G. Anglin,	H. Roach,
G. S. McGhie,	C. Clancy,
F. G. Kidd,	Samuel Kirk,
D. Campbell,	W. H. Godwin,
W. J. Young,	W. H. Hunter,
W. Harrington,	E. Keegan,
A. J. Grange,	J. Henstridge,
	J. B. Dowling.

Boo, Hoo.—The sympathy of the public generally, and of the ladies in particular, is humbly requested for that poor, poor Freshman whose eyes were suffused with the briny on account of the eloquence of the Professor between the hours of four and five on Tuesday afternoon.

CAN'T somebody in this inventive age suggest a means of manufacturing an extra hour in the day. Our Professor of Surgery will feel greatly obliged if supplied therewith as he feels decidedly in need of it.

Why he preferred the study of medicine to painting: The mistakes of the painter are glaringly apparent; but those of the physician are buried.

## SCIENTIFIC JOTTINGS.

IT has been said that an educated man should know something about every subject and everything about some subject. By properly restricting the meanings of the terms *something* and *some* this may become possible, but even then a man may think that he knows everything about some subject upon one day and find himself at fault upon the next. Particularly in experimental subjects is this the case, for there indeed knowledge increases in amount so rapidly that like in some Alpine snow storm one must keep in continual motion to prevent himself from being buried in the drift. A couple of years ago a new metal called Gallium was added to the list of chemical elements. Shortly after this we heard of another new metal to which was given the name Davyium, after which we have Phillippium and Decium. Whether these latter are bona fide elements or not is not as yet established very satisfactorily, but there seems to be no doubt about the former. Within the past year two more elements have been added to an already long list, and one is inclined to ask 'where is this to stop?' Some few years ago we had 63 elements; then the number went up to 64, 65, 66, until at the present time it stands in the vicinity of 68 or 69. The two recently discovered metals are *Scandium* and *Norvegium*. Scandium was discovered in the early part of the year by M. Nilson, and is particularly interesting from the fact that its existence had been predicted by Mendeleeff.

It seemed a wonderful feat when Leverrier and Adams predicted the existence of an unknown planet and pointed out, to within two degrees, the place where it was to be found; but what shall we say to the prediction of the existence of a metallic element in chemistry which possesses in almost every respect the predicted properties.

Mendeleeff named his unknown metal *ekabor* and gave it an atomic weight of 44; that of scandium is actually 45. To ekabor was given one stable oxide which should be a sesquioxide. Scandium has only one oxide which is a sesquioxide. Ekabor was to be less basic than magnesia; scandium is so. The salts of ekabor were to be colorless and were to give gelatinous precipitates; Scandium satisfies these conditions. The oxide of ekabor was to be infusible and to have a specific gravity of 3.5.

The oxide of scandium is insoluble and has actually a specific weight of 3.8.

These coincidences, and many more that might be mentioned, are simply remarkable, and they almost incline one to place chemistry among the exact sciences were it not that the principles that enter into the prediction of the existence of a metal are not the same in kind as those which lead to the discovery of a new planet.

The very prediction of Mendeleeff's presupposes to a certain extent some relation existing between the elements, and during the past year two, out of many attempts to trace this relation, are significant.

Mr. Lockyer working with the spectroscope has given, at least, plausible reasons for believing that some intimate relation exists between Hydrogen, Calcium, Magnesium and some other elements; and the Meyers have just recently succeeded, in as far as we can see at present, in decomposing Chlorine and in showing it to be a compound of some other body with oxygen.

We have thus two opposite tendencies at work, one endeavoring to complicate matters by increasing the number of chemical elements; the other aiming at simplification by showing the possibility or rather plausibility of the theory that the elements may be after all but modifications of one common *ground-stuff*.

D.