

World Views

An Anomalous University.

The medical faculty of the University of Toronto, whose graduates have to be re-examined by another Ontario college, the College of Physicians and Surgeons, before being trusted to practice medicine in that Province, wants to be freed from such control of said other college. Dr. C. K. Clark, Dean of the Faculty, writing in the report of the Board of Governors of the University to the Government, describes the present relations as anomalous and humiliating. Dr. Clark says:

"Possibly the greatest hindrance to the highest development in the teaching of medicine in the University has been caused by the fact that we are not able to adopt the most advanced and most desirable methods, owing to the demands of the Medical Council of Ontario. It is an anomaly that medical educational standards and methods in a Provincial university must be determined very largely by another Provincial body out of touch to a great extent, with university ideals and requirements of modern medicine. That the Medical Council is a necessity no one denies; that its chief function is to direct medical education, set standards, and conduct examinations, rather than protect the general public from quacks and dishonorable and criminal practitioners, is a very different matter. To many the latter function seems to be the all-important one. At all events, the time has come when we must consider the advisability of endeavoring to establish the University Medical Faculty in such a position that it may develop, unhampered by narrow and humiliating restrictions."

In comparison with ruling methods elsewhere, the position in which the Ontario Government has placed its State University, is, to say the least of it, unique.

The Rat Menace.

For the first time in 250 years the bacillus of the bubonic plague is acknowl-

edged to exist in England. On December 12th, 1906, a woman living in a cottage in the village of Shotley, situated on the south bank of the Orwell, some miles southeast of Ipswich, and isolated from the adjoining country by the estuaries of the Orwell and the Stour, died of what was then thought to be pneumonia. Two of her daughters later took the disease, one recovered and one died. Two weeks later a woman in the next cottage who had nursed her neighbors, died of pneumonia; a few days later after this her husband died of the same disease, and in January her mother. Two of her children had pneumonia and one died about the same time.

A short time afterward, at Trimley, on the north side of the Orwell, two more persons died within a month of a disease, now believed to be the plague. A third outbreak occurred in September, 1910, at Freston, a village a few miles south of Ipswich, and more than six miles south of Shotley. On September 11, a little girl of nine was taken ill and a cat which she had fondled died the same day. The mother of the child died on the 23rd, her father on the 29th and a woman who had helped the father to nurse his wife died on the 29th. Bacterial cultures made from the blood of two of these four persons revealed the plague bacillus, and that they died of pneumonic plague there is now no doubt.

The remarkable fact, discovered when the Freston cases were shown to be pneumonic plague, was that for some years past, in the peninsula south of the Orwell, there was an extraordinary mortality among rats, which have been dying in large numbers since 1908, and probably before that. One man testified that he had seen as many as 300 dead rats in the field in a single morning. Examination of these dead rats disclosed that they had died of the plague. It was found that as many as five per cent. of the live rats were suffering from the plague. The significance of