

The Progressive Student

Semper Paratus---Always Ready

Wallace College, Quebec, Canada.

SURSUM CORDA

Barbers of the Province! Raise up your hearts. Be of good cheer. Yours is not the first profession that has sought to elevate its standing and succeeded, yours is a noble ambition. All humanity can be raised up morally intellectually and socially only in groups or installments. Today it is your turn. All veritable educationalists, wise legislators, philanthropists and friends of humanity approve of your efforts and will not fail to extend to you the hand of welcome and express a word of encouragement.

Everything in nature is perfect and what man does is perfect only in the measure that it imitates nature.

In nature everything is well organized and perfectly systematized. You are seeking a systematic and perfect organization.

Perfection in man consists in the development of three elements: the spiritual or moral, the intellectual and the physical. You are contributing your share towards improving the morals of that group of humanity which compose your profession by the provisions touching the Sabbath and intemperance in your ranks. You contribute towards the raising of the members of your profession intellectually by obliging the study of certain subjects necessary to the correct

performance of the duties of the profession. Finally you are contributing in an effectual manner the raising of the standard of health throughout the entire community. A big responsibility rests upon your shoulders for the carrying out of those hygienic regulations lately promulgated by the Provincial Board of Health. No other group of persons in the Province is so well adapted for this mission. We wish you success.

TELEGRAPHIC TYPEWRITER

An invention recently exhibited at a conversazione of the Royal Society seems likely, so far as private house-to-house calls are concerned, to supersede the telephone. This contrivance is a telegraphic recorder without a battery, invented by a Mr. Stelges. It requires no skill and typewrites the message on the desk of the receiver, while retaining an additional copy in the hands of the sender.

It is such a revolution in telegraphy that the Post Office, on the advice of Mr. W. H. Preece, has adopted it, and will install it where required by the public at a small cost. The Home Secretary has just sanctioned its introduction to Scotland Yard, where forty instruments have already been ordered.

THE DECIMAL AND DENARY SYSTEMS

If there is any branch of education that needs a pruning, that one, most assuredly, is Arithmetic. There would be less useless plodding on the part of the student, and much more useful time would be spared on the part of the statistician, were some slight changes made in the mode of calculating and reckoning pursued in our Arithmetics. More over, if the several nations could be persuaded to enact laws tending to uniformity in this respect, very much mental drudgery could be dispensed with. I have reference to the arithmetical tables of time, money, weights and measures.

As the denary system of numeration and notation is the one generally (I may say universally) followed, there is no scale of tables better adapted to procure facility as well as accuracy in calculation than the decimal system. These two systems go hand in hand, and they are tolerably good companions, but they are not allowed to be often enough in each others company to make them fast friends. The United States is fortunate in possessing its decimal currency. There is also a very favorable tendency on the part of the scientists to adopt the metric system of weights and measures. This latter has prevailed in France for many years and has a decimal basis.