

THE VARSITY.

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The report presented to the Senate on the 18th respecting a Medical Faculty for the University—a summary of which will be found in another column—raises a question that will interest the medical profession and University men generally. The proposition, in brief, is to consolidate, if that be possible, the two existing Medical Schools, and to create the teaching body so formed into a Faculty of Medicine in the University of Toronto. At present the Medical Faculty is one in name only. Under the proposed union it would become one in reality. Under existing circumstances the two medical schools of the city are proprietary institutions, under the control of individuals who are responsible to no one in particular for the management of affairs. Each is in affiliation with the University of Toronto, and in addition Trinity Medical School is in affiliation with Trinity College, while the Toronto School of Medicine is in affiliation with Victoria College, of which it may be considered the Medical Faculty.

If we glance at the report we shall discover what changes are contemplated by the proposed union. The name of the consolidated school will be the University Medical College, and it will be the Medical Faculty of the Provincial University. It is to have a governing Board which shall hold in trust for the purposes of the College all properties belonging to the institution, shall have general charge of the finances, determine all fees, control examinations, and make all appointments on the teaching staff. The Governing Board will consist of certain members of the Council of University College, two members nominated by the Government, six members elected by the Senate of the University, and the chairman and one other member of the hospital trust. The new school is also to have a College Council of its own. This Council will have the control of purely educational matters, including the conduct and discipline of the students in the College, in accordance with the curriculum of the University of Toronto. The Council will consist of the Professors of the Medical College, including such professors in the School of Practical Science as are giving instruction in the subjects of the Medical curriculum.

In considering the details of such a scheme as the one outlined above, due regard must be paid to what may be termed vested rights. It must be remembered that in an amalgamation such as is proposed, there will have to be a great deal of give and take—a great deal of compromise. We are not sure whether the new school intends to provide positions for all the present members of the teaching faculties of both schools. The report, however, seems to provide for this by saying that if either or both of the Medical Schools accept the scheme, their lecturers shall hold, as far as possible, the same positions in the new college as they hold at present. Salaries will be maintained *pro rata*, and the scale of salaries now in force at Trinity Medical School is accepted as the standard. It is also intended to make suitable provision for retiring allowances for professors—a manifest improvement on existing arrangements. Should neither of the present schools accept the proposal, then the professors will have to be appointed in some other way, and those so appointed will be the Medical College Council. Although the new Medical School will be an active Faculty of the University, it is proposed that the governing Board shall seek from the Ontario Government the power to raise a sufficient sum of money to purchase or erect, and equip, suitable buildings in or near the hospital grounds.

Such in brief is the proposal which is now made to the University, to the Government, to the Medical Schools, and the Medical profession generally. Now that the scheme has been formulated, and is receiving influential support, it cannot but have a modifying effect upon the consolidation scheme about to be brought into practical effect. The new Medical Faculty will have to be represented in the proposed University professoriate, and perhaps in this way provision may be made for all those at present holding positions as professors and lecturers in the existing schools. The advantages to be derived from such a policy as is outlined in the report we have given seem to us to be overwhelming in favour of its adoption by the University and by the Medical Schools. From a University point of view there is hardly anything against the scheme, and there appears to be almost everything in its favour. The creation of such a close relation between the Medical Schools and the University cannot but benefit the former very largely. It will bring to its side the great majority of the medical profession throughout the Province, who will share, indirectly, in any advantages which accrue to the Provincial Institution in times to come, and who will thus be brought to take an active part in the management of the affairs of the University, to the mutual advantage of each.

From the point of view of the Medical Schools, while we are free to confess that there are difficulties in the way, yet we are convinced that a little generous feeling on both sides will do much to overcome them. There is necessarily a rivalry between the two schools, and not a little pride will have to be swallowed before the two can agree upon a basis of union. But that the ultimate benefit to the profession and to the community at large consequent upon a union of forces in connection with the University, and the mitigation of a species of rivalry that is calculated to do great harm, will, we are sure, compensate for any sacrifices which may be rendered necessary by the present proposal. The University has great advantages to offer in her scientific equipment and staff—all necessary in the professional study of medicine, and this is a fact that should weigh materially in favour of the proposed scheme for consolidation. The control of fees, of the curriculum, of requirements for degrees by one central body, uninfluenced by local feeling, will do much to raise the standard of the medical profession, and to place its students upon a level with those pursuing other professional studies.

There is one sentence in the report to which we are prone to give our own meaning. We hope we are not wrong. The report provides that all medical examinations shall be conducted by the professors in the Faculty of Medicine, and such other examinations as may from time to time be associated with them by appointment of the Senate. If this is meant to provide for some system whereby medical students will be enabled to take advantage of a course in liberal or arts' studies we are sure that the profession and public will join with us in hailing with delight the advent of some such provision. Under the present system, the only training other than strictly professional which the average medical student receives is that obtained previous to matriculation. This is usually of a preparatory and limited character, and should not be the only adjunct to the mental furnishing of the future physician's mind. There are few professions in which a greater amount of culture should prevail, and yet, we are forced to confess it, there is scarcely one in which so little attention is paid to its acquirement. We sincerely hope that the new scheme will provide some workable system of conjoint medical and arts' study. In conclusion, as far as we are entitled to speak, we are most heartily in favour of the proposal to unite the Medical Schools of this city, and to create a Medical Faculty in the University of Toronto. Such a Faculty is much needed for many reasons, not the least important of which is the good that will result to the present schools themselves and to the community at large. We sincerely hope that wise counsels will prevail, and that when the Jubilee year is complete, another advance may come to be recorded in the history of our Provincial University.

The following is the petition of the students of the School of Practical Science to the Honourable the House of Assembly of