

# Educational Institutions In London

**The Mecca for Students of Western Ontario—Schools of  
Training in Business, Pedagogy, Music, Art, Mechanical  
Drawing and Military Matters.**

Before a child is old enough to be admitted to the public schools, it may go to the kindergarten, and by means of congenial tasks and associations be taught self-control and to look upon school as a place of brightness and

happiness. In this department London has been decidedly progressive. The first kindergarten was established in London South, as it was then, away back in the eighties, but at the same time it was an experiment, but time it was so successful that the city board of education decided to adopt the system. This was done about 1890. In the years that have followed the growth in favor of the advantages have been generally recognized and according to the demands of public opinion, the civic board that manages educational matters has been continually enlarging its accommodation in this department. The last report of the supervision rightly says: "Now no school is considered thoroughly equipped without a kindergarten. The training received by the little ones prepares them so well for the work in the primary grades that the crowding in these rooms is in a great measure obviated." There are at the present time some fourteen kindergartens throughout the city, having nearly 1,200 pupils enrolled, with a teaching staff of about 36. The Toronto Normal School, No body of teachers have higher ideals or strive more earnestly to attain them than the one in this department, and it is perhaps the greatest assistance to their efforts that the system has been so successful.

With a knowledge of the fact that this system can attain its highest efficiency, or give its most perfect results, unless the teaching staff be composed thoroughly of capable instructors, the other boards of trustees, who succeeded either year after year, have sought to maintain a high standard among the teachers employed. In this way it has been distinctly the policy of the public boards that there are no teachers employed in public school work in Cambridge who are working today in less than the best schools. The city has been exceedingly fortunate in this respect. At present time there are 14 grade schools in the city, each one having an average of eight rooms. The staff of these schools is composed of about 6,500 pupils enrolled. The regular course of study as prescribed by the educational department is taught. A number of public-spirited citizens have organized the various classes of competitive games, which have been placed at the disposal of the board certain sums, which are used to procure medals and other rewards for perseverance and industry in the pursuit of the various sports. In the interest of the pupils in their work.

Of all their educational institutions the people of London have most pride in the Collegiate Institute, and it is only just that this should be seen to its reputation as a school where teachers and equipment are unequalled has attracted to it a city very much more than the city has added greatly to its prestige as an educational center. The building itself is one of the finest structures in the city. In style it is Victorian but in its centrally located residential portions of the city. Within easy walking distance the best of lodging can be procured on very reasonable terms. This is a most important consideration to those students who find it necessary to leave home to continue their education.

The work is divided into three departments, the lower, upper and commercial schools. In the first the course of study is practically a continuation of public school work, and the second is prepared for the more advanced studies of the upper school. For many years an opinion prevailed that too much time was being spent in teaching these advanced studies and that the pupils were being educated to unfit them for future work. The claim was that they were being trained for a business which they could not make their own men. In order to meet the growing demand for a more practical education, the board erected a separate building, and secured special teachers and established a department where the pupil should have a more practical education, and should be able to make his own way in a commercial education. It would be possible to obtain in business college.

Today the Collegiate Institute is second to none in the province. The reason for this is due, in large measure, to the late principal, Mr. F. W. Mercer, M.A. Before he became principal, the work of the school was in a con-

condition, and of giving poor prospects, apparently of getting out of it. It had no great reputation to maintain, and seemingly was not striving to establish one. When Mr. Merchant arrived, however, he changed all that. He had not, and it was his intention to live up to it. A teacher of wide experience himself, a man of scholarly attainments and of great energy, he brought with him a coterie of men of similar character, earnest in their work, and ambitious for the name and welfare of the school. The result was that after a few years the London's fame was spread over the whole of the province, and the schools that had been foremost in Ontario, and following after the rivalry it surpassed them. Then the aim of the teachers was to maintain their position. Their pride in the pupils' pride also, and with both working heartily in unison, actuated by the common impulse and supplied with all necessary equipment, there can be no doubt of future success.

Recently the school lost their principal by his transference to the principalship of the new Normal School, but it was fortunate that a man of such high qualifications eminently fitted him to be Mr. Merchant's successor. Mr. S. J. Radcliffe, B.A., is also a man of broad education and valuable experience, and imbued with the same spirit of progress. Having the same management, a strict disciplinarian, broad-minded, genial, and looked upon by all pupils almost as a personal friend, he has all the requisites for success, and can assuredly compare well with that of a worthy predecessor.

Every way the building is adapted for a school. In the basement is a large room that is used as a drill hall, lunch and furnace rooms, and a gymnasium. The value of the building is at a cost of some \$300,000. A large portion of the ground floor is utilized as an assembly room, which is large enough to accommodate all the pupils. The second floor is devoted to class rooms and a reference library. The value of the latter is \$1,000. The second floor is laid out on plans similar to those of the lower school. On this floor is the laboratory which has been thoroughly equipped at a cost of \$2,504. The total value of the equipment is about \$4,000. The heating is done by the Smead-Dowd system. The building throughout is lighted by electricity. The teaching staff comprises 22 of the most competent educationalists to be found in Canada, and at the present time there are about 1,000 pupils in attendance. No fitter school could be found for good work done in the past than that contained in the words of the last report made by the high school inspector. He said special attention is given to the requirements of those pupils who look forward to commercial life. As regards equipment, and the character of the teaching in the various departments, this maintain the high standard which has characterized it of late years.

The adherents of the Roman Catholic faith in London have every reason to pride themselves on the efficient and successful school system which they possess for the education of their children. The record of the separate schools during the 43 years of their existence has been one of steady progress. The statistics of the last year of the board, 1903-4, are a most gratifying one, showing as it does that the revenue of the board has increased, and the debt on the schools has been reduced. The daily attendance at the schools, the number of successful candidates for the entrance examinations, and the number of pupils from the board who have passed the entrance examinations, all show a steady increase. There are now over 750 pupils on the rolls. The course of study is the same as that prescribed for the public schools. Valuable prizes are awarded for high scholastic achievement, constant attendance, and good conduct.

There are at present 36 separate schools in London, so located as to furnish satisfactory school accommodation to separate school supporters in every portion of the city. The schools and their addresses are as follows: St. Peter's, 10, corner Park and Princess avenues; St. Mary's, Hill street; Holy Angels, Lyle street; St. Joseph's, corner Richmond and Grosvenor streets; St. Nicholas, Cheapside street, and Sacred Heart, Queen's avenue. The first eighteen sisters, employed as teachers, and the latter is taught by the nuns of the Sacred Heart. The board intends building a school in South London soon.

This academy, which is conducted by the religious of the Sacred Heart, has had a very successful career since its establishment over 40 years ago. The Convent of the Sacred Heart, in which the academy is located, is bounded by Dundas and Colborne streets, on the south and west, and by Queen's avenue on the north. Centrally situated and surrounded by extensive grounds, the academy offers the advantage of the country with the quiet of the country. Every facility is afforded for pleasure and healthful exercise of the pupils. The system of education pursued is thorough and adapted to the needs of the country. The academy is a boarding school that adopted the plan of all academies of the Sacred Heart. A commercial class is open to those who desire to take such a course. Both boarding and day pupils are in attendance at the academy, and pupils may stay any time during the year. Difference of religion is not an obstacle to admission, provided pupils are willing to conform to the general regulations established. The entrance time there are some 50 or 60 pupils attending the academy. The estimation in which it is held is shown by the fact that at times it has had enrolled pupils from such far away regions as British Columbia and the north-western provinces, and many other points in Canada and the United States.

The Normal School is the latest acquisition to London's educational institutions, and, needless to say, it is one of the most important. It is a mere matter of speculation as to the benefits that such a school entails upon a community. The Canadian judgment is that the financial standpoint, for this is only one of the many advantages to be derived from it. That part of the country surrounding the city in which there is a Normal School should, of course, be recognized, its value is assured. Its establishment in this city has obviated the necessity of going to Toronto or Ottawa to study for the required teacher's certificate. Not only is this an advantage but it also offers a benefit in many other ways. For instance, the schools in those cities often had as many pupils as could be

Winter is the most trying season of the year, so far as health is concerned. Confinement in-doors, and overheated and impure air makes even usually strong people feel dull, languid, easily tired and generally run down.

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conveniently accommodated. Consequently the western teachers were not in London until the beginning of a new term. The inconveniences are manifest. This is now changed. In London the teachers waiting will have equal opportunities with those of any other school. London has often been called a city of churches, and all teachers-in-waiting will learn, as those attending year have, that the churches are a hospitable class, who take an interest in strangers and in welcoming them. All that has been said about the pleasant location and to cheap, though good boarding for pupils, applies also to the Normal School. The promise for brilliant success in the work of the Normal is very bright. Mr. Merchant, who has placed the Collegiate in the pre-eminent position in which it stands today, will be glad to see the teachers in London is glad of it, for with him control the citizens expect, and that confidently, to see it take the foremost place in Ontario. The selection of the teachers is a happy one. Mr. John

The building is one of the most imposing of the city structures. In the beauty of its architecture and the evidence of its thorough and artistic workmanship, it is unsurpassed in the city. It is surrounded by large grounds, which will be beautified in the coming summer.

## ARTS DEPARTMENT.

Among the educational institutions of which London is so justly proud the Western University occupies a prominent position. This institution, which was established in 1878, by the act of the legislature, and empowered to confer degrees in divinity, law, medicine, etc., aims at providing the student with the highest attainable knowledge in literature, law, medicine and engineering. The Right Rev. Bishop Hellmuth, D.D., and Chancellor of Huron College, were chosen instrumental in the foundation of the university, the fundamental object of which was to promote the highest scholastic training and instruction of students of Huron College, and to provide facilities for the study of the sciences generally. The university is open to all who desire to avail themselves of its advantages, without denominational test. The first department in which students in Divinity may propose to enter the ministry of the Church of England. Western University and College commenced its actual operations in 1895 in affiliation with Huron College, through the cooperation of the arts department with Huron College, the senate was enabled to reopen the arts department with encouraging results of success. The past year for the first time has been very gratifying. The university is advantageously situated in the northern portion of the city, surrounded by some of the most beautiful and most desirable real estate in the more central

business portion yet within a few minutes work at the center of the city. The education is an ideal one for an educational institution. The curriculum is the same as that of the university, and by the time the students graduate, and by the time the university is incorporated, the same standard has to be maintained in examination and in the work at the University. At the present time there are in attendance at the university about 60 students, of whom 24 are taking full arts courses and the remainder are in the arts course. About half of the full course students are ladies, and nearly all of the partial course students also belong to the gentler sex. The affiliation with the medical division with the medical departments enabled students to combine advantageously the medical and arts courses of the university and arts courses of the medical school.

The university has been much handicapped in the past by the lack of funds. The institution has to depend largely for sustenance on the voluntary subscription of the friends. A new fund has been made to raise an endowment fund, which would materially benefit the university by placing it on a sounder basis and enabling it to do away with the unhelpful financial embarrassments.

## DIVINITY DEPARTMENT.

Huron College is affiliated with the Western University and constitutes the divinity faculty thereof. Huron College was founded as a divinity school in 1863, by the Right Rev. J. C. Cronyn, D.D. The necessary funds for the college were raised by the sale of land, and by the aid of the following: the Rev. J. C. Peache, of England, giving the endow the divinity school. The principal of the college are distinguished Protestant and Evangelical, as expressed in the thirty-nine articles of the church of England. Students entering Huron College are required to complete any course only, which is completed in three years, the first year being probational; or take the full course also, with divinity options after the first year, thus graduating as a minister of the gospel in four years. At present time there are about fifty students taking the divinity course.

Under the canon of the provincial synod, adopted in 1881, and by legislation subsequently enacted, the various universities and colleges of the Church in England in Canada have formed a joint board of examiners for divinity degrees, and the Metropolitan of Canada has been appointed a representative with power to grant such recognition with this the necessary examinations for degrees in divinity are held at Huron College in October each year, and candidates, after passing these examinations in the course, have such degrees conferred upon them by Huron College, by representative of the college acting for the Metropolitan.

**MEDICAL DEPARTMENT.**  
 Affiliated with the Western University is the medical school, which has for itself a deservedly high place in the list of Canadian medical colleges. Incorporated in 1878, the college has since made steady and satisfactory progress. There are now about 100 students attending the rolls show a gradual increase each year. The college now has to its credit a record of 159 graduates, many of whom are leading physicians of London. Others occupy equally prominent positions in their provinces and in foreign lands, and have been elected to membership of the faculty, have distinguished themselves and their alma

by winning the coveted honor of being made a F. R. C. S. Eng. Only three physicians in Canada are entitled to style themselves thus.

The college building is commodious and well arranged, centrally located on the corner of Waterloo and York streets, convenient to the hospital and dispensary, is heated, lighted and ventilated in the most appropriate manner, and is supplied with the latest improvements. The main building contains two spacious lecture halls, chemical and histological laboratories, together with museum, a large room for dissections, etc. The dissecting room is in a separate building, a sanitary arrangement much appreciated by students.

The college is recognized by the Royal College of Physicians, London, the Royal College of Surgeons of England, Royal College of Physicians of Edinburgh, and Faculty of Physicians and Surgeons of Glasgow, and by the Royal College of Physicians and Royal College of Surgeons

in Ireland. The college is composed of some of the foremost physicians of the city, and the curriculum is a most thorough and exhaustive one, so that when the disciple of Hippocrates has completed his term within its walls, he leaves it with a complete an equipment for his work as can be obtained anywhere in the dominion. The college also awards medals and scholarships and awards as incentives to diligent work on the part of the students.

On the whole, London's Medical College speaks for itself, and if its record in the past is any criterion of its future history, its friends will never have reason to do aught but felicitate themselves on its success.

The London School of Art and Design has recently become of great importance among the educational institutions of the city. A number of the most successful men in the country have worked zealously in its interests because of a recognition of the great work that has been accomplished in such schools in Europe and the United States.

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