

Contributions.

UNIVERSITY STUDENTSHIPS.

An invitation recently received from friends in Cambridge to write a report upon the Pathological Studentship of that university, stating the successive holders and the work by them accomplished, has of necessity made me ponder over the value of such studentships, not only to their holders, but also to the universities which have them in their gift, and has inevitably led me to think—more even than I had thought before—of the enormous influence that would be exercised by similar appointments in advancing the name and reputation of McGill were our University fortunate in obtaining a few such studentships.

So when the importunate editor has been at my heels for six months, begging me to contribute something to these columns, and I have all along assured him that I shall be delighted so to do, and have procrastinated until, gaining courage, he has peremptorily demanded the production of the article on a given date, now, at later than the eleventh hour, I can call to mind nothing more appropriate than a few notes upon the subject of Research Studentship and the value of the same.

In the older English Universities there has for centuries been a system whereby the corporations of the various associated Colleges are made up of a Master or President, a body of Fellows, and a body of Scholars (who are undergraduates.) These Fellows are not university officials; their rooms and stipends are given to them by the Colleges, and while their emoluments are such that they can live comfortably, the Fellows are not required to justify their existence by continued study and the publication of investigations in one or other branch of learning. Indeed, with relatively few exceptions, these Fellowships may be regarded as most valuable prizes, given to those members of the various Colleges who

manage to gain the highest positions in the University examinations; prizes which in a prosperous College, when the holders continue in residence, are worth at least, \$1,500 a year, for six years. For in most cases it is not even demanded that those elected to the Fellowship continue to reside within the university.

It goes without saying that some, appointed under these conditions, have performed excellent work, and have utilised their opportunities to add renown to themselves, their Colleges and their University. It is but human nature that many also have been barren trees in the orchard of the University. The more progressive spirits at Oxford and Cambridge, fearful of destroying old institutions and of the opposition that would attend any attempt to introduce radical changes in collegiate life, have sought other methods of encouraging and supporting work on the part of graduates, and of gaining a name for the Universities as centres of research rather than as peculiarly pleasant abiding places for unencumbered men of culture. Thus it is that, especially during the last ten years, there have been instituted University studentships in various subjects, the holders being appointed by the University, not by the Colleges, and the tenure of the posts being dependent upon the active prosecution of research. In Cambridge, there is the Balfour Studentship in Biology and Geology, (founded in memory of Professor Francis Balfour the Embryologist, brother of the leader of the English Conservative party), the Craven Studentship in Classics, the Prendergast Greek Studentship, the Clark Maxwell Studentship in Physics, the Isaac Newton Studentships in Astronomy, the Gerstenberg Studentship in Moral Philosophy and Metaphysics, and the John Lucas Walker Studentship in Pathology. To these may be added the studentships in Archaeology founded out of the Worts' Travelling Fund, and