

TRINITY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

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❖ Editorial. ❖

NEW BUILDINGS.

WE are pleased to be able to record a number of interesting alterations and improvements at present being culminated in and around the College building. Janitor Pett has transferred his Lares to an adjoining house on Spruce Street, from which coigne of vantage he will be able to look closely after the wants of the students and the general conduct of College work. At the same time his removal from his old quarters is a desideratum, inasmuch as it will add materially to the working room in the College. Part of the space will be converted into a dark-room for the special study of the appliances used in ophthalmology, otology, etc., thus filling a want that has been specially felt by the gentlemen engaged in the teaching of these branches. In the front part of the basement-floor is being placed a students' lavatory, which we are certain will be thoroughly appreciated, and, as only the most approved fittings are being used, it will undoubtedly conform with the most rigid demands of sanitation. Another decided improvement is the enlargement of the Pathological Laboratory, by the removal of the partition between it and the adjoining room, thus obtaining a much-increased area of well-lighted space for the practical use of the microscope in the pursuit of this important study. Other improvements in the Histological Laboratory, with the increased amount of apparatus to assist the student in the acquisition of a thoroughly practical knowledge of Histology and Pathology, need only be mentioned. But what will be of even greater interest to the Juniors and the Sophomores are the changes they will find in connection with the dissecting-room. A large addition is being built to the north end of this already spacious building (the whole being entirely separate from the main College building), thus constituting it one of the most admirably adapted Practical Anatomy departments upon this continent. The new addition will contain a large vat-room, demonstrators' and bone rooms; besides, the students will be pleased to note the improvements in the fitting up of the dissecting-room proper. Osteology, which in the past has not obtained that prominence in the departments of Practical Anatomy to which it is entitled, will in Trinity receive due attention, and its teaching will become a most important part of the duties of certain of the Demonstrators. Finally, it has been decided by the Demonstrators to introduce the Edinburgh method of teaching Practical Anatomy (with a few modifications demanded by circumstances), and we desire to congratulate the Department upon this most important step. In the past, so far as we know, the system has been followed as closely as circumstances would permit, but, owing to a comparative scarcity of material, the object was impossible

of thorough realization. Now, owing to recent legislation, this difficulty has, we trust, been removed, and we are glad to be in a position to state that in the future Trinity's supply of dissecting material will be ample for every requirement.

PRACTICAL EDUCATION.

IN a recent trip through many different parts of our Dominion, we were extremely gratified, as a lover of old Trinity, to see the position occupied by her many graduates in medicine throughout the country. There is one thing which impressed us particularly, and that is, that among her graduates there seemed to be such a vast majority of eminently *practical* men. We desire to mention this circumstance with all due humility and without the slightest tendency toward egotism or self-assertion, but simply as a fact, proof of which is constantly being presented to one's mind. And, on consideration, it is quite to be expected that Trinity men should be something very much better than mere theorists; men of thought who know thoroughly how to apply their understanding for the improvement of the community among which they dwell. This is scarcely to be wondered at, when we consider that it is the constant aim of our Faculty to teach practically; to encourage practical application of ideas among students; in short, to graduate from our College *practical* physicians and surgeons; men thoroughly equipped for the battle of life.

AND, just here, is there not a danger that mere theory may be brought to occupy too eminent a position in our medical institutions of learning, to the exclusion of what is far more important and practical? Can we forget that in this young country of ours it is much more important that the devotee of our science should be able to recognize and treat a lesion, to analyze a morbid process and to perform successfully a surgical operation, than it is to discuss the structure of the lung in the ichthyodia, or to theorize vaguely concerning the thermic centre in the brain of a tadpole?

INDEPENDENT MEDICAL COLLEGES.

THE question of independence among our Medical Colleges is rapidly becoming a live question with the thinking public, and the growing opinion seems to be that this is a department of education which should be carried on independently of the public purse. That the strictly technical branches of our profession can be and are thoroughly and satisfactorily taught by independent Colleges is, we think, denied by none. But some are of the opinion that those branches, which are commonly supposed to form part of a liberal general education (such as Biology, Zoology, Chemistry), should be taught in laboratories fitted out by Government expenditure, and by men engaged and paid by the Government. Without discussing the advisability of this method (and certainly there are many things to be said in its support) we are sure that no unprejudiced individual will deny that in such case these University privileges should be offered to the students of *all* Medical Colleges upon equal terms. A striking example of this contention is exemplified in certain recent procedures by the British Medical Faculty. The students attending the various Medical Colleges in London have for a long time been subject to certain disadvantages and restrictions in the matter of obtaining medical degrees. These restrictions it was thought best to have removed, and, accordingly, a convention was held for the purpose of considering the matter. This convention comprised delegates from all the Metropolitan Medical schools, and they immediately set