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## EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

It was announced in the last number of the FORTNIGHTLY that the University had taken a definite step towards requiring Students in the professional faculties to also take a course in Arts. The importance of the movement cannot be too highly appreciated, if McGill is to maintain its position and reputation for progress amongst American universities; especially considering the opinion so universally expressed in the past few years, that of two equally endowed students, the one classically trained proves the better student in science.

Experience has shown that it is impossible to expect more than a small minority of men to take the Arts course, as it at present stands, before entering one of the other faculties. Few can afford either the time or the money to spend seven and usually eight years in University life, and the courses are too heavy to permit them being taken simultaneously. Some new plan must therefore be devised to enable a student to take two degrees within six years at the most, if the movement is to be successful. What the plan will be it is impossible even to guess, but there is a strong probability that all students will devote the first two years to Arts alone, the last two to professional studies alone, the third and fourth remaining entirely in doubt.

It might be well to glance at the work of other Universities; and as the Faculty of Medicine is the strongest in McGill, we will see what are the qualifications necessary for the degree of Bachelor of Medicine in Cambridge and Dublin.

First, in Cambridge, to place them briefly, the candidate must have passed the previous examination corresponding to our intermediate in Arts, he must have lived three years in residence, he must have spent five years in Medical study. There are three examinations, known as the first, second and third M.B. examination, but no medical student can present himself for the first unless he have already conquered his Littlego (previous). This latter, however, he can pass if he wish and is able so to do, even before commencing residence.

The subjects comprised in the first two examinations are:—Chemistry, and other branches of Physics, Elementary Biology, Pharmaceutical Chemistry, Human Anatomy and Physiology. These subjects, along with Mineralogy, Geology, Botany, Zoology and Comparative Anatomy, form the Natural Science Tripos course, so that the usual course for medical students is to enter for this Tripos and take their B.A. degree at the end of their third session, and then remove for the next two years to a hospital in London, passing their third M.B. in that period.

In Dublin the regulations are more severe. Two years in Arts is essential even to obtain a diploma, and none but those who have attended four years in Arts and obtained the degree of B.A. can get the further degree of M.B. The studies, however, can be pursued simultaneously, and professional exemptions are granted somewhat similar to those in McGill. That these exemptions, however, by no means free professional students from studies unessential to their respective professions may be seen from the fact that the following subjects are compulsory in the third and fourth years: Logics, English Composition, Ethics, Astronomy and Mathematical Physics.

In the first year there are practically no exemptions, but in the second, medical students may omit Classics.

In order to follow either of these two systems a considerable change must be effected in the curriculum of the Arts course. Inasmuch as the schools of the Dominion do not turn out scholars as far advanced in Classics as the English schools, to maintain an equality in education in the final result, it would be impossible to do otherwise than compel all students to attend the