

ELECTIONS TO THE SENATE OF TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

We observe that the Hon. Edward Blake, M.A., L. McFarlane, M.B., and T. W. Taylor, M.A., are the retiring members for this year, all of whom are eligible for re-election, and that the election of members to supply their places will take place early in May. As there is likely to be some modification in the curriculum and general management of the University before long, it is very important that the Convocation should select men who have the interests of the University at heart and who know the wants of the country as well.

From our personal knowledge of Dr. McFarlane and Mr. Taylor, we know that better men could not be selected to fill their places, as they are both fully alive to the requirements of the situation, both are true to their *Alma Mater* and in their allegiance to *legitimate medicine*, and we hope to see them both returned as they belong to the class of working members. If it be true that Mr. Blake is about to be elevated to the Chancellorship, we hope the graduates in arts and medicine will be able to unite on a successor to him, who will not only be willing to devote the necessary time to the trust, but who will be thoroughly true to the University and to the medical profession, from which the University has derived such timely aid, at a period when its friends were comparatively few. Of course if another *medical graduate* could be chosen to fill the vacant post we should be pleased, but if that is not deemed possible or expedient, we hope Convocation will see that the new representative shall be as true to *legitimate medicine* as the proposed Chancellor is known to be.

THE authorities of the Medical Department of the University of Louisville, upon the 9th day of February decided to abolish hereafter the requirement of theses from candidates for graduation. We believe this is the first institution which has taken this step, the propriety of which must be apparent to all. Why the fearful and useless bore should have been kept up so long is inexplicable. We understand that one of the other colleges of this city will also abolish this unnecessary exercise, and we doubt not the centennial year will see it pretty well swept out of existence everywhere in this country.—*Louisville Medical News.*

Communications.

TRICHINA SPIRALIS.*

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Of all nematode parasites the trichina spiralis is the most directly inimical to man, frequently causing wide-spread and fatal epidemics. This parasite was discovered in 1835 in a dissecting-room subject, by Mr., now Sir James Paget, while a student at St. Bartholomew's Hospital. From this period up to 1860, they were often met with in subjects, and also found in many of the lower animals; but they were looked upon in the light of pathological curiosities, and nothing was known of their development, nor of the fact that they might occasion a violent disease in man. During the latter year Prof. Zenker of Dresden made the discovery that their development and growth were accompanied with grave symptoms, sometimes followed by death. Since this date numerous cases have been recorded, and extensive epidemics have occurred; so that the disease, called Trichinosis is now thoroughly recognized, and the history of the parasite better known than that of any other nematoid form.

As usually met with, trichinæ occur in the muscular system, closely coiled in a spiral form and enclosed in oval cysts, which appear as small specks, just visible to the naked eye, of a whitish colour, and measuring about 1-75" in length. While in the muscles the trichinæ are immature, and though a digestive canal is present the reproductive organs are not fully developed. To attain maturity it is necessary that they should be transferred to the intestines of some animal, so that we may say the trichina exists in two forms, the larval form, represented by the muscle trichina, and the intestinal or adult condition. In the intestines the larvæ grow considerably, and in about two days after their ingestion become sexually mature. The female parasite contains an enormous number of eggs, which, while within her, develop into young trichinæ, and are born living and active the seventh day. These embryos do not stay long in the intestines, but make their way through the walls and along the cellular tissue of the mesentery, to the various voluntary muscles. Many, no doubt, gain entrance to the blood and lymph vessels, and are in this way quickly transferred to the most distant parts of the body. Having reached the muscles they

* Extract from a lecture on "Animal Parasites and their relation to Public Health," being one of the Somerville Lectures of the Natural History Society.