

Ottawa as an Educational Centre



THOUGH it is a city of but 90,000 inhabitants, yet Ottawa can boast of being particularly fortunate in the number and quality of her educational institutions. While we are not endowed with a university which at present is in a position to give degrees in medicine, law or engineering, still, the University of which this magazine is the official organ grants degrees in arts, as well as honorary degrees, and its charter provides for the enlarging of it into a college capable of turning out efficient doctors, lawyers and engineers, and, perhaps, the day is not far distant when it will do so. Situated here is the Normal School, where those desiring a course in pedagogy are forced to attend. The Ottawa Collegiate furnishes a four-years' course, after which a matriculation is granted. Two convents provide pleasant abodes for young ladies, while Ashbury College is an excellent resort wherein to receive the primary principles of a military training. Of course, the usual number of public schools exist, and the city is thickly dotted with business colleges—really excellent institutions.

Bacon, in his "Essays," said: "Studies themselves do give forth directions too much at large, unless they be bounded in by experience." This, after all, is quite true, for the experience of going about and seeing those things about which you are taught, is of much greater benefit than merely taking for granted what you see between the two covers of a book. Now, has Ottawa the means of furnishing students with a practical education? This we will consider.

Perhaps the foremost advantage of Ottawa as an educational centre is the possession of the Parliament buildings. By keeping in close touch with the "doings on the Hill" you see a whole country governed—you see laws in the making, and you meet men whose names are household words throughout the Dominion. A daily trip to the House of Commons is a treat. There you hear the members of Parliament arguing points of vital and common interest, there you see the first and most powerful men of the land discussing questions of international importance, and you may, as it were, keep your finger on the pulse of the country's activities by spending daily an hour or two in the Commons