

examination cost the candidate \$10 in place of the \$5 now paid, or, taking into consideration the travelling expenses, often from remote parts of the Province to these centres, it involved, in many cases, four or five times as great an outlay as at the present. The examinations were otherwise unsatisfactory, and the council decided to accept in lieu of them one or other of the departmental tests then in force. It has never seen cause to regret its decision to that effect, and to-day such is our confidence in the realness and absolute value of the departmental examinations that the representative members of the Council would not willingly set aside the departmental certificate in favor of any unlimited University qualification, even up to and inclusive of a degree in arts. Practical educationists know very well that the dependence to be placed on the certificate or diploma or degree in arts of any institution is determined, not chiefly by the face value of its requirements or by the extent or parade of its curriculum, but by the thoroughness and stringency with which its examination tests are applied. Our objection, in the Medical Council, to accept University standing as qualifying for matriculation means, not that we have no confidence in any University, but that when eight or ten Universities become competing bodies, so far as medical matriculation is concerned, there is no surety that their tests are equally applied—we know that in the past the tests of some were applied with discreditable laxity—and consequently, as we dare not discriminate, University standing, in this connection, represents to us an unknown or a variable quantity. We know also that the drift of candidates is always towards the least exacting examining body. Hence our fixed resolve to stand by the departmental tests, and it is no secret that other technical colleges and other professions take the same stand as the Medical Council in this matter. I have only to add that, in my opinion, the Departmental Examinations are the touchstone, as the Inspectorate is the keystone, of the entire educational system of the Province, and that neither can be tampered with without gravely marring the integrity and efficiency and equipoise of the whole. The decentralization of teachers' examinations and of those of University and profession matriculants, due to the present plan of making each High School a centre at which candidates may write, has undoubtedly been a boon to all. I may, perhaps, be permitted to add in this connection that it would be a concession generally appreciated by the public to increase by at least one-half the time assigned to each paper at these examinations. There are many reasons which readily suggest themselves to practical teachers why, if the department errs here at all, it should be on the side of over-liberality.