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The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

Editorials.

We feel certain that the majority of our readers will rejoice when we announce, that, in all likelihood, this issue contains the last of the publications ament the late trouble between certain members of the old staff. In justice to Mr. Palmer and his many friends in the Medical Faculty we have deemed it our duty to publish his letter. Many more letters have been received from those who were on the staff with him; as we could not possibly afford space for their insertion, we have suppressed all. We trust that those, who censure our course in this regard, will at least give us credit for acting, to the best of our judgment, in the interest of the GAZETTE.

McGILL EXAMINATIONS.

There are several alterations in the manner of conducting these which we desire to suggest. We would like to see the rank of the students depend more upon the work done by them throughout the session and less upon the final spurt. Such a result can be secured in two ways, and perhaps better still by a combination of both. These are (1) a fixed number of class grinds, occurring at irregular intervals throughout the term, and (2) the writing of essays upon portions

of the work exacted. In the United States the tendency in the colleges, if it be reported correctly in the students' journals, is more and more away from the system of written examinations and in the direction of the two methods here proposed. The first of these has the advantage of forcing the student to do some steady work at least through the session, while the second ensures thoroughness in his study. Our professors can surely be unaware of the frightful amount of cramming which is done in the university, or they would long since have taken steps to remedy an evil which has now grown to monstrous proportions. Of the danger which they incur by indulging in this vice, the students themselves seldom become fully aware until they have graduated, when looking back critically over their course, they ask themselves how much it has profited them. Too often this late examination is a sad one, and the saddest part of it is the knowledge, then first gained, of the injury done to memory by the all-night sweats and protracted vigils through which they forced themselves to pass, on the eve of examinations, in order to make up for their lack of steady application at earlier seasons. In return for this lasting hurt to memory, they have gained high rank alone, though not always this. The knowledge, grasped with so much pain, has remained but momentarily, and the result of such an investigation is often that the once well crammed student turns again to the books he believed himself master of, and begins anew to conquer them, but now, in the light of his experience, forces his brain to no stupendous undertaking, seeking rather to assimilate thoroughly what he gathers with care, and striving to tone his intellect to its former lofty pitch. There are many promising young minds coming up every year to McGill; how intolerable will it be, if a large number of these share the fate of so many of their predecessors! And, if so, will the fault be wholly theirs? Will not a share of the responsibility rest upon the shoulders of those who maintain a system which is constantly producing such lamentable results? It is not now, as once, when the written examination was generally accepted as the best test of a candidate's knowledge and one of the most powerful stimulants to his ambition. Other systems, among them those we have mentioned, are being introduced elsewhere and with success. Why should nothing new be attempted here?