

# The O. A. C. Review

Vol. VIII.

ONTARIO AGRICULTURAL COLLEGE, GUELPH, FEBRUARY, 1897.

No. 5.

## Editorial.

IN regard to the thesis work which each Third Year man is required to do in some branch of his special course, much dissatisfaction has been expressed. The professors claim that the subjects for such work are not chosen early enough in the year to allow of sufficient time being spent in original investigation. On inquiry among the present class, we find that the majority of them had decided early in the Fall Term upon a line of work which they thought to be suitable but which for various reasons had to be abandoned. In some cases this was caused through lack of apparatus, as for example, work on the fungous diseases of garden and greenhouse plants which would require a special house. Others, again, were declared useless because of a lack of material wherewith to carry on experiments. The unsuitable season had much to do in those cases. The work along purely agricultural lines was impossible on account of the length of time necessary to obtain accurate results. Thus when finally a suitable subject is chosen, the work must be accomplished in short time, either following the usual laboratory hours in the afternoon or at odd periods between lectures.

A great change in the percentage marks required for the degree of B. S. A. has been made by the Senate of Toronto University. In former years, degrees were given to all those who obtained an average of 33% in the examinations, but the new regulations coming into force the present year, demand that the student not only receive an average of 33% in every subject of the general course but also that he obtain a minimum percentage of 40 in each branch of his special course and an average of 50 in the whole of that department. It has been felt that some of the graduates of this college were not worthy to bear the name of Bachelor of the Science of Agriculture. Probably this has been so in a few cases, and to prevent any repetition of the mistake, the standard has been raised considerably. The graduates from henceforth should thus obtain greater glory for their work than should those who have previously obtained the degree on the lower standard. Better application both to the laboratory work and to the reading will now be required, and the man who from this time out

reads B. S. A. his name can proudly say that success came only from earnest labor.

In view of the recent conflagration in the Parliament Building at Ottawa, it would be well perhaps, to look into the state of the fire protection at this College. The new Chemical Laboratory is probably the best equipped of all the buildings. Special pipes run up to the top story giving connections at convenient points where are placed swiveling racks of the best hose. The other Laboratories are however without special hose and depend entirely upon the outside hydrants for protection. Again, the Dairy Department is over a quarter of a mile from the College proper, yet it also has to obtain hose-supply from the main building. Of the force of water at command, it would be unjust to criticise at present, as work is now going on, preparatory to the building of a reservoir which with the new fire-pumps will give ample force and volume when required. In the main building there are sections of hose scattered at convenient points through the various flats. These are supposed to be tested occasionally to see that all are in good working order. With the exception of such as are placed in the new wing, familiarly known as the Hunt Streets, wrenches are required for the hydrants. Where the proper wrenches are kept, no one seems able to say with certainty. Undoubtedly they are not placed in a convenient spot. Some suppose that they may be found mixed up with the other apparatus back of the Physical Laboratory. Some notice of their whereabouts ought surely to be posted in a conspicuous position that no time may be lost in case of an outbreak of fire. We all know the confusion which existed at the last fire in the Chemical Laboratory.

Probably the most pressing need in the College at present is that of proper lighting. Nothing can be more injurious to the eyes than to study by a light at one time bright and glaring but perhaps a few minutes later, low and flickering. To finish the evening, a small oil-lamp gives a softer but feebler flame whereby one must read until bed-time. With all that is now required of us as students here, should we not receive in return those conditions which are most favorable for the proper fulfilment of such duties? Then again, neither of the sources of light at present used, are beneficial to the occupants of a room which is small and not readily ventilated. We earnestly call the attention of the authorities to this matter, hoping that before another year goes by, they may see the way clear to change the present system to that of incandescent lighting.