

instances, the affiliation was only availed of, to enable their students to compete for the rewards of the University, while a large proportion of the students of the affiliated schools preferred to spend the last two years where they could be examined by their own teachers. That it will be for the advantage of the University or the country to divide the Arts degree, in the way proposed by some, we very much doubt; but we are of opinion that, in view of the facilities afforded by our admirable system of High Schools throughout the country, the entrance or matriculation examinations might be very considerably raised in all the branches, and perhaps increased by the addition of Botany and some other subjects, in such a way as to enable the lecturers to devote their time to the higher departments of their several subjects, instead of having to first take their class over those rudiments which ought to have been mastered before entering the College. If there are weak places in the present teaching staff, of which we are not aware, let them be strengthened; but let vacancies be filled by men who have a warm sympathy with, and a clear knowledge of the wants of Canadian students, if they can be found among ourselves qualified for the positions.

We think it is not so much on account of deficiencies in the teaching staff, or defects in the curriculum, that the University and College have come short, as on account of an inherent weakness in their Constitution, and that weakness we have tried to point out.

THE death is announced of Sir Duncan Gibb, Bart., aged 55. The deceased was educated for the medical profession, first at St. Bartholomew's Hospital, London, and afterwards at Montreal, in Canada. He graduated M.D. at McGill College, Montreal, in 1846. He was also a member of the Royal College of Physicians, London, and was for some time physician to the Westminster Hospital, and to the West London Hospital. He was a member of many societies in Europe and America, and the author of several works on the diseases of the throat and windpipe.

TALIPES VARUS.

We have been shown a very neat and useful shoe for keeping the foot in its normal position during early infancy, and after division of the tendons in older children. A gentleman in Brompton, whose child was operated on by Dr. Moore for double *talipes varus*, found that if the usual surgical instrument and boot were worn both night and day the feet did not grow, but remained in a rudimentary state; while if the instrument was left off during the night the projecting bones resumed their abnormal positions, and the gain of the day was lost at night. He therefore contrived a boot which could be worn at night without confining the toes, but with sufficient firmness to keep the foot in whatever position the instrument had brought it during the day, and the result has been eminently satisfactory.

The boot being small, smooth and light, does not interfere in the least with the child's rest, and it is so firm that the patient can walk upon it in the morning with perfect ease and safety, without having to wait for the application of the larger instrument by an older person; whereas throwing the weight of the body on the *unsupported* foot always restored the original distortion. The boot is made altogether of firm sole-leather. The sole of the shoe is the full length and exact size of the sole of the foot, the upper is made high enough to reach well above the ankles, moulded to a last the exact size and *shape* of the foot when brought as nearly as possible into its normal position, and then firmly stitched to the sole, which is also moulded to the last. The upper only reaches forward enough to cover the ball of the great toe, while all the other toes are left free and exposed. The shoe is laced up the front, and when completed, forms a perfectly unyielding case which stands square on its bottom and rigidly maintains during the night all that has been gained during the day. The toes being exposed, have a tendency to spread outwards in the natural direction whenever the child throws its weight upon the foot, and the foot grows more rapidly. Being unpatented and only costing fifty cents, it is quite within reach of the poor, and will probably, when applied early, supersede, in many cases, more expensive instruments.