≈QUEEN'S « UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXIII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, APRIL 4TH, 1896.

No. 11.

Queen's University Journal.

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers,
during the Academic year.

G. R. Lowe, B.A., - Editor-in-Chief.
R. Burton, - - Assistant Editor.
F. Playfair, - - Managing Editor.
W. A. McIlroy, - Business Manager.
D. H. Laird, - - Asst. Business Manager.

The Business Manager is in the sanctum daily from 11 to 12 to receive subscriptions.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 1109, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Business Manager.

ASTER means exams. immediately; mediately, something higher. In harmony with the brighter aspect of the season, the JOURNAL dons a new coat, designed as a special souvenir of our Alma Mater by Toshi C. Ikehara. It speaks for itself. We believe its adoption is in keeping with the time of year and its festival, and that its significance will sink into the student heart, after exams. are over. "Unless above himself he can erect himself, how poor a thing is man." Look we to him who saith, "I am the Resurrection and the Life."

The Ontario Medical Council secured its legislative power not without opposition within, a considerable section of its members uniting in the "Medical Defence Association," yet in defiance of the proverb of the "divided house" it still flourished. Now that it is a prominent point of attack for the Patrons' destructive artillery, its end cannot be far distant. But even this imminent danger from without does not relieve the friends of the Council from the wholesome task of criticism. Few, if any, object on principle to a medical organization to protect the public from novices and quacks, even when it enforces its decrees by legislative enactment. Probably circumstances require such authority. The question is, is this the only motive in their imperious decrees? To an outsider, public interests certainly

do not appear to justify some of their latest doings.

The five years' course is not in harmony with the highest standards in other professions. The teaching profession in Ontario is, no doubt, in line with this thorough technical training, but its source of inspiration is too near the one now in question to be accepted as evidence in court. Training for law and the church, in those denominations requiring the highest standards, are based on a somewhat different principle, viz., give a man general education, develop his mind to the fullest capacity, and he will bring all these mature powers to bear on his special work, and so surpass men of less mental training, even if technically his superiors. Only two defences for a different course in the present case can be made, either medicine does not require brains, or doctors cannot be trusted to perfect their training by private study as others do. Both are plainly untrue. The physician follows a noble calling, where every gift finds its place, and no work is better fitted to excite the noblest devotion in its followers.

The only other reason is that the profession is overcrowded. Long terms and high fees are the most effectual means of exclusion. Overcrowded? We know country places, yes and towns, too, where licensed incapability thrives for lack of good doctors. If it is the duty of the Council to weed out quacks, is it not also its duty to provide capable men to ensure the health of the community? So long as it is assumed that every licentiate of the Council, irrespective of other qualifications, must be guaranteed a good living, large sections of the country must suffer at the hands of bad practitioners. The long expensive course excludes good men, and to crown all the graduate of any college must pay a hundred dollars for his provincial examination. Surely this is wrong. The actual expense cannot be half that sum, why then is the student taxed? It is the high water mark of protection. Probably nowhere in the world is any profession so exclusive. There is danger that much of the good work the Council has done, and is doing, is to be destroyed by this recently discovered molluscan shell, the so-called present "high standard."