

THE VARSITY.

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TORONTO, January 21, 1903.

THE Senate of the University of Toronto has passed some important and far-reaching enactments during the past week. The regulations concerning term work have been made much more stringent. In the general course, term work will be compulsory during the whole four years. In the Honor Departments, also, term work will be required in the form of essays and laboratory work and in the Modern Language Department, proficiency in conversation will be counted, as judged during the whole term, instead of the oral examination at the end of the term.

The students in the Science Department will not specialize until the second year. During the first year there will be one general science course which all will be required to take.

The Modern Language Department has been divided into three sections: First, the Teutonic branch, consisting of English and German; second, the Romance branch, consisting of French, Spanish, and Italian; and third, a combination of these two so as to satisfy the Department of Education requirements.

A radical change has been made in the English and History Department. The new regulations allow French and German to be substituted as an option for Latin and Greek. History is already required or allowed as an option during three years of the Modern Language course. It will be seen then that the English and History course with the French and German option, is simply the Modern Language course with a little more history and a little less of the languages. Under these circumstances it would seem that the required result could have been secured much more easily by increasing the History option in the Modern Language course. In this way no course would have undergone such a sweeping change as has now taken place.

Another important change has been made in the conditions governing the granting of the degree of Master of Arts. As candidates may avail themselves of the provisions of the new statutes after June, 1903, we give a summary of its clauses:

1. A candidate must be of at least one year's standing as Bachelor of Arts in this University.
2. A candidate who, having graduated in honors, subsequently passes the final examination in any honor course other than the one in which he originally graduated, may obtain the degree.
3. A candidate who has obtained first-class honors in two departments at the examination for B.A. may obtain the degree.

4. A candidate who passes the final examination of the general course in Class I. or II. may obtain the degree by subsequently passing the final examination in any honor department.

5. A candidate who passes the final examination with honors or stands in Class I. or II. in the general course, may obtain the degree by presenting a thesis on some subject which is acceptable to the heads of the department. He may be required, in addition, to pass a written or oral examination on the subject chosen. In the case of those who do not stand in Class I. or II. of the general course, the written or oral examination will be compulsory.

6. A candidate who holds the degree of Ph.D. from this University will be granted the M.A. degree without further examination.

A curriculum in forestry has also been adopted. This course is a necessary addition to the science departments. The forests of our country are an important element in its prosperity and their preservation is essential for our supremacy in this matter. The regulation allowing third year students in the O. A. C. to enter this course should prove beneficial in bringing a scientific knowledge of forestry within reach of those who are most directly interested in it, and who will have the greatest opportunity of using their knowledge.

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We publish in another column a letter from Mr. Darling on the question of "Convocation." We agree with the writer that the movement which was commenced last term, having for its object the better celebration of this university function, should be forced to a successful issue. The idea meets with favor among Graduates as well as Undergraduates. The present Alumni Meeting and dinner are not sufficient to bring any large proportion of the Graduates back. But if a good excuse were given, in the form of class reunions and social meetings of the old Graduates, they would come back in large numbers to renew their acquaintance with their *Alma Mater*. This is what is wanted. The university can have no greater asset than an active, enthusiastic Alumni, whose interest in their university is kept alive by frequent intercourse with her. The difficulty of getting the graduated classes interested would not be so great as it would appear. Almost all the classes have officers who keep in touch with the members and, by placing our programme for Convocation festivities before them, we could, through them, get at all the Alumni.

But before doing this some definite scheme of operations should be devised. The American universities have some characteristic ceremony. We should originate something unique. It does not need to be anything elaborate. But even the simplest ceremony will get dignity with age, and what may seem petty to us, who do it for the first time, may be sufficient to bring us back to the old halls in after years. For simple though it may be, there will be only one place to see it performed.

If anything is going to be done in the matter, action should be taken at once. If we wish the honorary degrees to be conferred at another time, a petition to that effect should be presented to the Senate now. An intimation should be given to the Graduates also, as soon as a programme can be drafted. A discussion of the question at a meeting of the year is in order.