

REV. A. B. NICHOLSON, B.A.

During the past fifty years the stormy-lashed Maritime Provinces have sent out many men who have made their mark in business, journalism and the professions. Queen's is not without her share of such men, and none has been more favorably known to our students and graduates of late years than the Rev. A. B. Nicholson. Mr. Nicholson was born in Charlottetown, Prince Edward Island, in the year 1845. In 1860 he entered the Prince of Wales College, where he remained for two years, distinguishing himself in Latin, Greek, French and German, and carrying off the highest honor that very efficient institution had in its gift—the Governor's prize. Some of the oldest men the Island has produced were in the school at that time, such as the Hon. Mr. McLeod and Mr. L. H. Davies.

For two years the subject of our sketch was private tutor in the family of Judge Peters. We can only judge a tree by its fruit, and the most favorable judgment results from taking this criterion in Mr. Nicholson's case. The present Premier of the Island was prepared for college by him. In 1864 Mr. Nicholson left his sea-girt home and came to the West, where he matriculated at Queen's. There was but one prize open to him at the time, the Mowat scholarship, and this he carried off. His course at the university was a brilliant one, leading his class each year and graduating in 1867 at its head, making the largest aggregate of marks. At college he had the wisdom to see where his strength lay, and began his life work—the study of languages. Each year he won the first prize in Greek and Latin, besides a special prize for Latin composition. It is needless to add that he is a first-class honor man in his subjects. He did not allow his mind to exclude all other subjects for the one he specially loved, for we find that in successive years he gained first prize in Zoology, Geology, Chemistry, Rhetoric, Logic, and second prize in Metaphysics.

In 1868 he entered Princeton Theological Seminary, where, with Prof. McCurdy, of the University of Toronto, in addition to the ordinary Theological course, he pursued, under Prof. W. H. Green, special studies in Syriac, Chaldee and Sanscrit. The long and severe course of study told on his vigorous constitution, and in 1874 he was compelled to go to the Pacific Coast for the benefit of his health. While there he was not idle; missionaries were needed, and he engaged in work under the Colonial Committee of the Church of Scotland.

Mr. Nicholson returned from the Pacific Coast in 1877, and settled in the Parish of Lansdowne, but in the course of the winter he was invited to take charge of the Latin and Greek classes in Queen's University during the sickness of Prof. McKerras. Since that time he has been a hard-working, faithful teacher within our walls. Only those who know him personally can realize how faithfully he discharged his duties, when Queen's had not the present large staff. In the summer of 1881 he visited Europe and attended the University of Berlin. On his return he was appointed Lecturer on Modern Languages. In 1889 this Lectureship was raised to a Professorship, and bestowed on Prof. McGillivray, a most efficient scholar and thorough worker. This appointment left Mr. Nicholson

free to devote the whole of his time to Classics, in which department he is associated with Profs. Fletcher and Macnaughton. He is joint author with Prof. Fletcher of "Elementary Greek Composition," a book much valued by teachers for its simplicity, clearness and accuracy of scholarship.

Mr. Nicholson is a favorable representative of Canadian scholarship, cross fertilized by German culture. He is untiring in his search after knowledge, and is satisfied with no superficial half-view of any subject. He is the man who, within his own field, in the words of a colleague, "knows everything." His field is the philosophy of language, standing in the very front rank of Canadian Philologists, and abreast with the latest discoveries in the field of Classics. He is likewise a graceful and vigorous writer, his articles on classical and literary subjects show that his study of the dry bones of language have not blunted his feelings to the beautiful in literature. No one knows better how to verify the study of the past. He has made poetical translations from the Classics that have a truly poetical ring about them.

We trust that Mr. Nicholson may long be spared to Queen's, and that the fathers of our institution, who know so well how to reward merit, may long enjoy the profit of his services.

COLLEGE NEWS.

THE GRADUATING CLASSES. MEDICALS.

THE examinations for the past term in connection with the Royal Medical College were concluded Wednesday, April 1st. In the contest for the gold and silver medals, given each year to the students who make the highest percentage in the final subjects, W. Kidd, of this city, son of W. J. Kidd, School Inspector, and A. Valteau, Napanee, were equal. The faculty have decided to give each a gold medal.

R. S. Minnes, M.A., passed the best primary examination in anatomy, and won a prize valued at \$15.

The three house surgeoncies for the Kingston General Hospital, six months each, were taken as follows: First house surgeon, T. H. Balfe, Smith's Falls; second, A. Lockart, city, and I. Woods, city, equal.

The Rivers Wilson prize for sanitary science and jurisdiction was won by J. W. Campbell.

Mr. McGrath, of Storrington, led his competitors in anatomy and won a prize of \$15.

At the end of the first session a silver medal is awarded to the student who passes the best examination in anatomy, physiology and *materia medica*. A special prize is also offered for the best dissected preparation. In this contest Mr. Connell, of Prescott, was successful.

Dr. Robson-Roose, of London, and Dr. Rivers Wilson, of Oxford, presented prizes in pathology, practical chemistry, medical jurisprudence and sanitary science. The prize of \$25, by Dr. Roose for practical chemistry, was won by H. J. James, Clayton, and R. G. Smith, Perth. The prize will be equally divided. Dr. Wilson's prize, \$25, in pathology, was taken by A. Haig, Menie.