

PROFESSOR—"What is fraud?" Student—"Taking willful advantage of a person's ignorance." Professor—"Give an example." Student—"Why—er—er—one of your examinations."—*Etc.*

"An old medical friend of ours, having occasion to leave his country practice for a few days, engaged as his *locum tenens* a young fellow just fresh from college. Upon his return he enquired of young Sawbones what fresh cases had come in.

"Oh, nothing of importance," was the reply, "except a birth."

"And how did you succeed with that?"

"Well, the woman died, and the child died, but I think I'll save the old man yet!"

PROFESSOR to Student leaving the room, "Sir, if you leave the room before the hour is up I must mark you absent. What is your name, Sir?" Student, "You will see on the roll book, Professor."—[Exit Student.]

There is a metre prosaic, dactylic,

There is a metre for laugh and for moan,

But the metre which is never prosaic,

Is the "Meet her by moonlight, alone."

A ST. LOUIS editor received in his morning mail, by mistake, proof sheets intended for the employees of a religious publication house. After glancing over them he rushed to the sub-editor, yelling, "Why in the world didn't you get a report of that big flood; even that slow old religious paper across the way is ahead of you. Send out your force for full particulars. Only one family saved. Interview the old man, his name is Noah."

### Personals.

Dr. L. D. Ross '84 will return shortly to the city after an extended tour through the Eastern Districts of London, Eng. It is reported that he was once surprised in one of the hospitals, whither he had unwittingly wandered, having mistaken it for the Westminster Aquarium.

We deeply regret to hear of the death, from typhoid fever, of Dr. Archibald MacLeod, late of New Westminster, British Columbia. Dr. MacLeod was a native of Orwell, Prince Edward Island, and graduated in Arts at this University in '81, and in Medicine in '83, being one of the most promising men of his class.

### Correspondence.

*Editors McGill Gazette:—*

DEAR SIRS.—At this time when our University may be said to have emerged from its earlier stage and to have established itself on firm foundations it is well that attention should be drawn to those points in which we are still weak in order that the necessary remedies may be applied and a symmetrical advancement secured. I am confident that the authorities with their wonted good sense and liberal-mindedness will take in good part all complaints and suggestions offered by well-wishers of the institution in a friendly spirit; and not only this, but will, to the limit of their means, make every effort to remove the causes of such complaints, if

they find the latter to be well founded. If further progress is to be made by the University as a whole, if the good reputation which we are beginning to enjoy, not only on this Continent, but in Europe, is to be maintained, we must see that no department be allowed to lag behind the rest. In the Faculty of Arts, although there is much room for improvement, about as good a course is offered as could possibly be expected with the means at present at the disposal of the College. The Faculty of Medicine needs no comment; while the Faculty of Applied Science is only awaiting further grants to become all that its originator expected. Concerning the Faculty of Law I wish to speak a little more at length. It seems to me that of late years, at all events, too little attention has been given to the affairs of this Faculty. I have not noticed that the Principal has been much given in his periodical addresses to dealing with the state of this department of the University; on the contrary he seems to ignore it altogether. Now it cannot be denied that the condition of the Faculty of Law is by no means what it should be, nor is there any use in trying to hide the fact that the B.C.L. course is looked upon by the average student with considerable contempt. What are the causes of this state of affairs, and what remedies are possible under the circumstances? The lectures, which begin somewhere between the 1st October and Christmas, are given in what must be considered a most slovenly manner. What are known as "slopes" are far too frequent to show a healthy condition of things. A slope takes place whenever a lecturer is more than ten minutes late, and when it is considered that they average at the very least one or two a week, a very vivid idea of the regularity and punctuality of the Professors will be obtained. The lectures are themselves, in many cases, not such as one would expect in a great University like McGill. Among the Professors are some of the ablest men at the bar, but still some of them do not seem to care to take the trouble to make their lectures worthy of them, or to prevent them from getting ludicrously behind the times. Some of the lectures are antiquated and partially useless, others utterly inadequate. There is no enthusiasm about the work; apparently nothing but apathy. The number of students has been gradually dwindling, and even English speaking students prefer to go to Laval. Of course it is seemingly a very thankless task to lecture without a good monetary remuneration, and the McGill Law Faculty cannot give very much. Having little or no endowment it has to depend mainly on the revenue derived from the students' fees, and this, of late years, has not amounted to very much. But that there are so few students is due in no small degree, in my opinion, to the Professors themselves. Let them work first without thought of the remuneration, and make the course what it ought to be, and they will soon find that their self-sacrifice will meet with adequate reward. When a lawyer accepts the position of Professor he should make up his mind to enter into the work for its own sake and for the honour of the position; and if he is not possessed of this spirit, the sooner he resigns the better for himself and the College at large. At present the lectures are given between the hours of four and six in the afternoon, and we know that it is