

It would seem reasonable that such provision should be made in the Regulations for its recognition as would ensure at least the reading of some portion of the Scriptures every day, with, of course, a "conscience clause" for the relief of any who might object to their children taking part in such exercise.

MODERN LANGUAGES AT UNIVERSITY COLLEGE, TORONTO.

UPON the death of Professor Forneri, nearly twenty years ago, the Chair of Modern Languages in University College was abolished, and lectureships were substituted, with the object of saving expense. How far legitimate expense in any department of the Provincial College should be spared seems to us scarcely a debatable question; but the mistake of thus trying to reduce the expenditure, and at the same time to increase the efficiency of the teaching of Modern Languages, has now, even to the comprehension of the most obtuse, been sufficiently demonstrated. The work of the department has been divided amongst several gentlemen, all of whom have found their chief remuneration in other work, and not one of whom has had the necessary leisure and opportunity of making for himself distinct advances in his subject. The result is that for years the Department of Modern Languages, in so far as French, Italian and Spanish are concerned, has been in a state not satisfactory to the best friends of the University.

An opportunity is now afforded, by the resignation of two of the tutors, to remodel the Modern Language Department, and thereby pave the way for changes in other departments that must in time be made. Within the last thirty years Philology has made such advances that it is now not only possible, but extremely desirable, to differentiate the subjects of the curriculum upon a strictly scientific plan. Instead of grouping certain languages of Western and Southern Europe under the absurd head of Modern Languages, and presumably regarding Italian and cognate languages as entirely different from their

parent Latin, and, by virtue of synchronous development, related to English, it would be correct, as every scholar knows, to drop a useless and misleading term, and accept for one division of the literary languages the term given by Diez so long ago as 1836, the Romance languages, and for the other, the Teutonic. As these groups of languages are entirely distinct, and as they are all rich in literature, there should be, in our opinion, two separate Chairs, each with its own Professor, supported by a sufficient staff of tutors. Spanish should be restored to the curriculum, and, with Italian, be begun not later than the second year of the course. If opportunity offered, some attention might be given to Portuguese, to Provençal, the Roumansch, and the Wallachian. At any rate, the student rightly directed would soon be in a position to take up and continue this work for himself.

The establishment of a Chair of Teutonic Languages would at once give a start to the study of Anglo-Saxon—too long neglected in University College; would place the study of the High German family upon a broader and more permanent basis; and would, in time, afford ample facilities for those who might desire, prior to a post-graduate course, to cultivate some acquaintance with Icelandic, Danish, and other members of the Scandinavian group. The literary life both of England and America would—witness Longfellow—derive no little vigour from frequent contact with the fire and energy of the northern intellect.

The development of such a scheme would necessitate the segregation of History and its congeners, Ethnology and Political Economy, either into a separate Chair, or their absorption into other departments.

In speaking thus, we have no intention of disparaging the work done in University College, but only the system under which some of it is pursued. It is no discredit to the Professor of English that as yet Anglo-Saxon has found no place upon the curriculum; for it needs no words of ours to assure the public that his labours in the sphere which the duties of his Chair impose upon him, have been enormous; but it is no