

his fellow-churchmen that he is not likely to grow faint for want of means. But his sense of justice will not allow University College to receive the money necessary to place it in a position to accommodate the increased number desiring admission to its halls. Dr. Grant is a friend of University College, and he fears that it will never prosper if it benefits itself at the cost of justice. With such highminded arguments do the friends of the denominational colleges endeavour to "put to silence the ignorance of foolish men."

LET it be granted that the amount of infectious disease among students this year has been very great. No doubt it is a difficult and thankless task to look after the sanitary surroundings of a number of students who "board round" in the city, yet we fail to see that this difficulty exempts the authorities from all responsibility in the matter. Did the students live in residence the authorities would be directly responsible for any cases of contagious disease which might occur, and making all due allowance for the present circumstances, it certainly seems that some measure of responsibility should attach to them in the matter of seeing that the students live in boarding houses where they will have a reasonable prospect of finishing the session upon the same side of the grave as that upon which they began it. Why should all responsibility in this matter end because it is not found feasible at present to provide a residence for the students? Would it not be well to do now what can be done while waiting for the happy time when it will be found possible to have a residence? That any boarding-house keeper should be allowed to receive a student without a tolerably recent certificate of the house being in a fair sanitary condition, is an idea which would seem utterly absurd were it not so common that no one thinks about it at all. In a College where in other matters the student is treated to so much paternal government, it seems a little odd and rather antithetical that he should be considered skilled in matters sanitary, and, to use a well-known phrase, be presumed to be "a good judge of bad boarding-houses." It is hard to see why the responsibility of the authorities should end so abruptly. This disagreeable question is a very difficult one to evade, and so far it has been simply ignored. Surely it would be wise to impart a little more than the usual information to the student seeking a boarding-house, perhaps for the first time and in a strange city. If the drains, for instance, are bad, and there is a good chance of typhoid, could not this be specially mentioned in the boarding-house list! The enthusiastic professor of hygiene could hardly find a more pleasant or profitable task for the class than to practically investigate the sanitary condition of the students' boarding-houses. The undertaking would not be without a certain element of excitement, inasmuch as they would, in all probability, get themselves into hot water literally, as well as figuratively, when the landladies discovered the purport of their mission. We think it our duty to call attention to the seriousness of this question, and to express a hope that something will be done to palliate what cannot, at present, be effectually cured.

WITH the limited means at the disposal of the Governors it would be like crying for the moon to press them at present to build us a residence, so we will say nothing on that head. But the Governors have it in their power, at any rate, to provide the next best thing, a dining-hall. The difficulty of obtaining board has never been so great as this year, and many

of the students are forced to get their meals at long distances from their lodgings. This is an especial hardship to students in the Faculties of Medicine and Applied Science, some of whom have but a single hour at noon, and are unable to get their dinner without going down town for it. The remedy for this state of things can be easily applied. The great majority of the students would welcome and cordially support any attempt to establish a dining-hall. Such an institution would certainly pay its way, and, if carefully managed, might become a source of revenue to the University. The only question that remains is that of providing a suitable building. Fortunately this can be easily settled. The part of the east wing now occupied by the Bursar—it really is not absolutely necessary to the welfare of the College that the Bursar should reside on the premises—would suit the purpose capitally. It has the advantage of being in the College, and is sufficiently large for the purpose. It is too late, of course, to accomplish anything this session; but, as the University machinery is proverbially slow of movement, the chances are that, if it is started now, the dining-hall will be a thing established by next September.

PROFESSOR NORTON, of Harvard, is trying the experiment of making the rank of his students depend partly upon the merits of theses written by them on topics connected with their course. This is an excellent idea, and one we hope to see adopted at some not far distant day in our own University. The evils of the present system of ranking entirely according to the results of written examinations have been deplored for many years, but it has seemed as if human ingenuity, usually so fertile in expedients, is unable to discover any means by which these evils might be overcome. It is with great satisfaction, therefore, that we hail this departure of Professor Norton. It will certainly do away, to a great degree, with the pernicious system of cramming, whose effects upon the mind are so injurious. Moreover, it will tend to place ready and slow students upon a more equal footing than hitherto; while, at the same time, all will be forced to direct more attention to the study of their own language and of the power of expression. These things are too generally neglected in McGill. The only course, in which essays are demanded from students, is the one on Philosophy, and even there the mistake is made of not offering any reward for excellence. Student nature is very similar to the nature of older men—only more impatient; and, although the students studying Philosophy recognise in theory the benefits to be gained from painstaking writing, yet in practice the majority ignore them. The essays have to be written, and will be carefully corrected. This the student knows, but, at the same time, it is his belief that his rank will be decided not, even in the slightest degree, by the merits of his essays. The consequence is that, though he usually feels some pangs of compunction, he gets into the habit of carelessly scribbling a few pages upon the topic which first occurs to him, or sometimes he will even copy a portion of his notes. Of course, this is not true of all the students—perhaps not of the majority. If, however, the standing of the students depended altogether, or in part upon these essays, much more care and study would be expended upon their preparation. But Philosophy is not the only department in which thesis writing could be made the criterion upon which to award honors and prizes. In English, in History, and in Natural Science, this test could be used with advantage, even in conjunction with the present system.