

UNIVERSITY REFORM.

BY A GRADUATE.

THE period of the year has arrived when, owing to the necessity of electing senators for Toronto University, a brief and fitful interest is taken in the affairs of that institution. Would-be senators issue cards full of glowing promises of University reform; promises, in nine cases out of ten, to be forgotten as soon as the desired honour has been obtained. The present time then seems opportune for calling the attention of the educational public to some reforms urgently needed in connection with both the University and University College.

A special report of a Committee of the Senate, recently published, embodies some proposed reforms, showing that the somewhat apathetic body has a faint recognition of the fact that much remains to be done to bring the University and University College into harmony with the general spirit of educational progress. After all, there is but a faint recognition, for many reforms pressing themselves on public attention are not even referred to, whilst the measures proposed for the increase and extension of the influence of University College, are not such as warrant the belief that any really liberal measure would find acceptance at the hands of our indolent and conservative Senate. It would be unjust, however, to use indiscriminate censure, as there are a few brilliant exceptions to the general character of the University Senator; and no doubt many of those who refuse to take a step in advance are

actuated by motives *at least* honourable. The reforms which I wish to advocate, and for which I desire to bespeak attention, are as follows:— (1) An increase in the staff of University College. (2) The reduction of the Arts course from four years to three. (3) The abolition of Government Scholarships. (4) University provision for the education of ladies. (5) The abolition of Upper Canada College, and the transference of its endowment to the University. (6) Increased care in the selection of Examiners.

1. That an increase in the staff of University College is highly desirable, if not absolutely necessary, has long been evident to all students of that institution. The subjects of Political Economy and Jurisprudence, including Constitutional Law, have been totally neglected in the class-room. It is scarcely necessary to point out that no well-ordered and progressive University can afford to neglect these branches of a liberal education. It is true that there have been examinations held in these branches, but of teaching there has been none. At various times there have been rumours of the proposed appointment of a professor in Political Economy, but such intentions, if they ever existed, have never been carried into effect. The reason of such neglect is apparent from the report, already referred to, of the Committee of the Senate. The necessary funds for the maintenance of a professorship were not at the disposal of the University authorities. Not only