

CORRESPONDENCE.

POST-GRADUATE COURSES.

PRESIDENT LOUDON WRITES ABOUT
THOSE AT TORONTO UNIVERSITY.

To the Editor of the *Gazette* :

SIR,—My attention has been called to the following paragraph which appeared in your issue of the 17th inst. :—

“The abandonment of the post-graduate courses at Toronto University for lack of support is a serious reflection on the usefulness of that institution. That out of the hundreds of graduates the University turns out every year only two should think it worth while to continue their studies beyond the limited courses required for a degree seems to indicate a deplorable lack of the desire for knowledge. A diploma does not signify that a man knows everything, but that he has been taught how to learn. A university whose students do not want to learn anything more must be set down as a partial failure.”

I may remark that I was very much surprised, not only by the erroneous nature of the statements contained in this paragraph, but also by the very unfriendly nature of the inferences based thereon. With your permission, I desire to refer briefly to the matter in your columns.

1. The regular courses of instruction on the part of our faculty are limited to the work of the undergraduates. Much of this work is, however, of such an advanced character that it corresponds to what is styled post-graduate work in many of the universities of this continent.

2. We have quite recently established the degree of Ph.D., for research work. An essential condition for the awarding of this degree is that the

candidate shall publish an approved thesis embodying the results of an original investigation. No regular courses of instruction are provided for candidates for this degree, as it is assumed that they will be competent through previous training to proceed with their work with only occasional advice and assistance from their professors. At least two years' attendance and study at a university (one of which must be at the University of Toronto), are also required. The standard for the degree is so high that the number of candidates will in all probability not be large.

3. For some years we have had students returning to us after graduation for the purposes of further study, even though we have not had heretofore the inducement of a doctor's degree to offer them. They still come to us, and their numbers are increasing annually. Last year we had fourteen such graduate students. This year we have already in all twenty-nine graduate students. Of these, four have registered for the degree of Ph.D., and are regularly proceeding with their work; fifteen are doing research work which will count for the degree of Ph.D. if they decide to register; whilst ten are taking undergraduate courses, thus supplementing the knowledge already required of them at their B.A. examination.

4. It is but fair also to our graduates and to the university to state that in addition to these twenty-nine graduate students, a large number of our graduates have obtained their Ph.D. at foreign universities, and many are pursuing their studies abroad, with this object at present. Last year to meet a charge similar to the one now being dealt with, I gave to the press a list of over eighty of our graduates who, within the previous three years,