

## THE COUNCIL AND THE MEDICAL CURRICULUM.

WHATEVER opinion may be held as to the wisdom of the Council requiring a Medical student to devote five years to professional studies, we are constrained to support it in its recent action regarding the Medical Course. A proposal was made to abolish the fifth year of study and also the Summer Session, and to substitute for the course now required four winter sessions of eight months each. Thus it was claimed a student would be required to attend classes just as many months as under existing regulations. The proposition was voted down by the Council, and it was decided to maintain the present requirements. In this respect, we say, the Council acted wisely. As yet no student has finished his course of five years. The Council saw fit to adopt the present curriculum. For the Council, then, to say, before its plan had been put to the test, "We will abandon the fifth year and adopt an eight months session," would have been to declare to the public that there was not much stability about the regulations of the Council. Such a reversion of policy under the circumstances would have compelled one to feel that the gentlemen who compose the Council were not competent to discharge the duties for which they have been elected or appointed. Under present circumstances, then, we feel that the Council acted wisely in refusing to make the change proposed.

It might, however, very well be asked, had the Council never adopted the five years course would it now be wise to lengthen the College Session to eight months? We think not. This is a young country. All are striving to advance themselves. Every walk in life is open to every citizen, be he rich or poor. So we find many young men who are in financially poor circumstances by their own exertion earning the money that is necessary to fit them for the various learned professions. This is perhaps especially true of the Medical profession. At present the winter session being only six months long, these young men are able to obtain employment during the summer vacation, and thus supplement their scanty funds earned before they began their college course. Make the session eight months long and these young men would be unable to obtain employment for the remaining four months of the year, and even if they did occasionally find a situation, the time would be so short that they would not possibly save much to devote to the expenses of the winter. Of course it may be urged