

## LEGAL EDUCATION.

by the Benchers as set out in the proceedings of Convocation published last number. (ante p. 263.)

Whilst this scheme presents many advantages, it does not, in the opinion of some, quite meet the requirements of the situation. It proposes the establishment of legal and literary societies in places where a sufficient number of barristers and students care to organize them. The objects of these associations are "the extension of legal knowledge and the cultivation of the powers of reasoning, speech, and composition of the members by the delivery of lectures by barristers on some of the more important branches of the law and examinations thereon, by the preparation and reading of essays and by arguments on legal questions." To stimulate students in their studies, prizes in the shape of law books are to be given to successful competitors.

The result of this plan will practically be, if carried out, the establishment of a number of small centres of partial education in some of the larger cities and towns in Ontario. These aids will be of benefit to those students who reside in the places where they are established, but they will be of little more use to the great mass of students than if the same course of instruction were given in Toronto, inasmuch as the students are scattered throughout the numerous towns and villages in the Province. The course of study also cannot, in the nature of things, be so complete in these smaller efforts as it might be made, at the same aggregate expense and labour, in one central combined school of learning. Others again amongst the students say that what they want is not prizes, but a reduction of the term of apprenticeship to hard-working students, successful in competitive examinations. We are not prepared, however, to admit this principle under all circumstances. Graduates are in a very different position from those who have not had a thorough school training. But whatever may be

thought of this matter, a petition has been largely signed both by the profession and students, asking for the consideration of a scheme which has been roughly formulated as follows:—

1. That courses of lectures be given by barristers to students for terms commencing on the first day of October, and ending on the first day of April in the following year, upon subjects from time to time prescribed.

2. That students who have not entered their fourth year before the commencement of any course of lectures be termed Junior Students, and all other students who have entered or passed their fourth year before the commencement of any course as aforesaid be termed Senior Students.

3. That one year be the maximum time to be allowed as a reduction from the regular course of five years, and six months reduction for any graduate for any examination or examinations.

4. That fifty-five per cent. be the minimum of marks in any Junior Examination, and that six months' reduction be allowed from the regular course of five years to successful candidates.

5. That sixty-five per cent. be the minimum of marks on any Senior Examination, and that a further reduction of six months' time be allowed to successful candidates.

6. That those who are now Senior Students be allowed to enter for either or both examinations.

7. That the examinations for Junior and Senior clerks be distinct and separate, and that only Senior Students be so allowed to enter for Senior Examinations.

Without further consideration we should not offer any decided opinion as to the merits of the plan above proposed; but we are satisfied the Benchers will be only too glad to receive and discuss this or any other reasonable suggestion that would seem to help in moulding into shape some fair, workable scheme for