

*Improvements.*

**M**OST of our ex-students are doubtless aware that the old Chemical Laboratory and contents were almost entirely destroyed by fire in the Spring of the present year. The loss at the time was quite a heavy one, and put professors and students, particularly those taking special courses in that department, to a great deal of inconvenience. A temporary laboratory was fitted up in the lower story of the Agricultural building until a new Chemical Laboratory was erected.

The fire that had destroyed the old Laboratory had hardly stopped smouldering before the authorities in charge were clearing away the wreckage in preparation for the erection of a larger and more modern one. The Professor of this department was sent to different parts of Canada and the United States to inspect the best buildings doing work of this kind. He was more favorably impressed with the Laboratory of Toronto University than any he had seen, and consequently the O. A. C. building is modelled after it, only on a somewhat smaller scale.

The building, which is now almost completed, is erected on the site of the old one. It is built of white brick; is three stories high; and has a somewhat blocky appearance. It is not what would be called a striking building, but the impression of it is greatly heightened after having inspected the commodious interior.

To give a description in detail of the several rooms which make up the interior would necessitate much more space than is at our disposal, and our ex-students may no doubt have an opportunity, some time in the near future, to see it for themselves.

The second story contains three large rooms, with apparatus for analytical work, and several smaller ones for the holding of chemicals, and balances. In the balance room is erected a brick pier which stands from the ground through the first floor. Upon this pier, about three feet from the floor, rests a large stone slab, on which the balances are placed. [There is, therefore, no jarring of the balances in any way, and more accurate results can be obtained. The room in the east end is for station work; the one in the north side where the old class room used to be, is for analytical work for the second and third years; the room in the west end is for the third year specialists in chemistry.

The third story contains the class-room, office, and chemical store rooms;—all fitted in the most modern style.

One of the striking features of the building is the manner in which the fumes are removed from the several rooms. An electric fan is constructed in the basement, driven from a dynamo placed in the engine room of the main building. Wires are stretched from one building to the other, and thus ample power is supplied for driving the fan and lighting all parts of the building. A draft is placed in front of where each student works, and the fumes are instantly sucked down tubes which lead to the fan. The air of the building will therefore be pure at all times during work, and all danger from irritating gases is thus avoided.

In conclusion we may say that the building is a credit to the institution, and reflects great credit on the authorities who have had a

hand in its erection. It is recognized as the best agricultural chemical laboratory on the continent at the present time. The professors in charge are men of ability, and the people of this country may look forward to some good work being done in agricultural chemical analysis. This station has done important work in the past, although hampered by lack of room and necessary apparatus. A new era of things has dawned, and the outlook is now everything that could be expected.

Our ex-students were informed last summer, through the columns of the "Review," that the College authorities had drilled two wells to supply the institution with water. Since that time a pumping apparatus has been put into both wells and a new engine placed in the south end of the engine room to work the pumps. Some trouble was at first experienced in getting the machinery to work satisfactorily, but at the present time the system is operating very well. The city supply is now shut off, and the College in the future will have its own system of waterworks for supplying water for irrigation purposes, and for fire protection. At present there is no reserve supply in case of fire, although the authorities have the privilege of using the city water on such occasions until such time as a reservoir is made. It is proposed to excavate for this purpose in the plot directly in front of the chemical laboratory. This reservoir will be cemented, and a large amount of water stored there for use in case of fire. The foundation has been surveyed, but as yet little has been done, and it cannot be completed until some time next summer. The College will then have a complete outfit for all purposes, and no doubt this will lead to a fire brigade being formed among the student body.

T. F. P.

*Annual Plowing Match.*

The annual plowing match was held during the first week of the present month. The work done was, on the whole, good, and was favorably commented upon by the judges, Mr. Wm. Squirrel, of the College, and Mr. Tolton, the well-known implement manufacturer of Guelph. Over thirty entries were made, and the results were as follows: 1st, P. Scott, Lambton; 2nd, W. J. Elliott, Huron; 3rd, C. A. Morrison, Ontario; 4th, H. P. Westgate, Lambton; 5th, J. McMillan, York; 6th, A. McPhadden, Glengarry; 7th, G. H. Murdock, Victoria; 8th, D. Ross, Glengarry; 9th, W. J. Price, Dufferin; 10th, W. T. Lucas, Northumberland.

*Third Year Specialists.*

The specialists in the third year are divided somewhat as last year, especially the agriculturists or "cheese-puddlers." Arranged in order of numbers, they are as below:

Biology—J. C. Macdonald.

Chemistry—W. P. Gamble and J. A. Cunningham.

Horticulture, Botany and Entomology—T. C. Bell and P. W. Hodgetts.

Agriculture—F. A. Parker, G. S. Henry, J. R. Oastler, L. H. Cass, C. H. Rogers, H. Hutton.