

Ontario Normal College Monthly.

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Ontario Normal College Monthly

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IT was with surprise and deep regret that the students heard last week of the serious illness of our Principal, coming, as it did, after nearly six months of an uninterrupted course of lectures. We are gratified to learn, however, of his gradual improvement and hope that he will be able to resume his duties at no distant date.

The executive of the Literary Society showed their thoughtfulness in making immediate arrangements for sending flowers to the sick room, and their action has met with the commendation of all.

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NOW that we are fast approaching the end of the Normal College year, it may be of interest to collate from assertions made by different members of our own class a few of the advantages incident upon our last five or six months' life and work.

Of course it goes without saying that the primary object of our coming to the College is being fulfilled—we are learning to teach. The days of our childhood never seemed so far away as in our first weeks at the College, when we were once more brought face to face with the prob-

lem: c-a-t, cat. Now that the months have rolled on from October to March, the problem is working itself out, child nature has become a little more comprehensible to us, and the teacher's true goal has outlined itself more distinctly.

Experience has been gained in another direction. Many of those now in attendance at the Normal College were never before called upon to take active participation in the joys and sorrows of boarding-house life and school life, bereft of the home friends and home associations. Upon reflection most of our thoughtful students grant that this new aspect of life has been of considerable value to them. Thrown to a greater or less degree upon their own resources, they have been obliged to make new friends, sometimes of strangers, sometimes of those who previously ranked in the list of mere acquaintances.

Take, for example, the graduates of our universities. A year or so ago they found it quite possible to devote their interests wholly to their special departments, and sometimes, indeed, to the students in those departments. Very often, according to their own account, they specialized to their personal detriment, and upon graduating from their Alma Mater, were led to express regret at the fact that they knew so little of the work covered by their fellow students.

The graduates of the Ontario Normal College will scarcely be able to