

*From the Daily News.*

### Medical Department of Queen's College.

A notice of the commencement of the fifth session of the Medical Department of Queen's College appears in our advertising columns of to-day. We have observed, by a perusal of the announcement referred to in the advertisement, that the number of students matriculated last year was sixty-four—an increase of seven over the previous year. This, considering the late "hard times," which have affected the pockets of parents of medical students as well as others, must be considered a very successful issue of last year's course, as other Provincial Medical Schools have registered a considerable decrease, owing, as is alleged by them, to the late financial crisis. A large addition to the number of students is expected during the approaching session; and a handsome and commodious building is being erected for their accommodation. The reputation of Dr. Lawson, whose powers of communicating knowledge, and whose zeal and enthusiasm for the advancement of his pupils are described by the most eminent men in Britain as "unsurpassable," must of itself add greatly to the number of medical students of next session.

Whilst referring to Dr. Lawson's connection with the Medical Department of Queen's College, we cannot refrain from glancing at the great benefits to be derived to a new country like Canada from the talents and acquirements of such a man. Besides being a distinguished Chemist and Naturalist, Dr. Lawson is a Scientific Agriculturist, Horticulturist, and Arboriculturist.

As an Agriculturist, we may refer to the work "British Agriculture" edited by him, and to papers on the following subjects which have been contributed by him to Agricultural periodicals:—"Chemistry of the Farm;" "Nitrate of Soda—its History and Agricultural uses;" "The Wheat Fly;" "Origin and Formation of Soils, and the conditions upon which their Fertility depends;" "Use of Lime in Agriculture;" "The Physiology and Chemistry of Milk, Butter, and Cheese;" "The Turnip Fly;" "On the Rotation of Crops;" "Improvement of Waste Lands."

As a Horticulturist, we may mention the following numbers of the new edition of "Chambers' Information for the People," edited, and in great part re-written by him:—"Vegetable Physiology;" "Systematic Botany;" "The Kitchen Garden;" "The Fruit Garden;" "The Flower Garden."

As an Arboriculturist, we refer to the number of the same periodical, styled "Arboriculture."

Dr Lawson is also a highly gifted, popular lecturer. "I have attended some of his public lectures delivered in Edinburgh," writes Mr

Roae, Lecturer on Mineralogy, "and can bear testimony to the accuracy of his descriptions, the clearness and simple elegance of his language, and his plain and effective delivery, by which he interests and carries his hearers along with him."

To mental gifts and acquirements Dr Lawson adds the Christian graces. "His amiable disposition and gentlemanly deportment," writes Mr Syme, Lecturer on Botany at Charing Cross and Westminster Hospitals, London, "are sure to give him a personal influence over his students." And Dr McLetchie, Minister of High Church, Edinburgh, writing from Edinburgh in January last, thus says:—

"From his talents, his acquirements, his earnestness of purpose, his vigor of perseverance, and his high conscientiousness, I am persuaded he will earn a reputation for zeal and efficiency in any situation to which he may be appointed."

We congratulate the country generally, and Queen's College in particular, on the acquisition of the talents, the attainments, and the energies of such a man.

### Testimonial to Dr. George Lawson.

*From the Edinburgh Advertiser, Aug. 6.*

Dr George Lawson being about to proceed to America to occupy the Chair of Chemistry and Natural History in Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, it occurred to some of his friends that the occasion was a suitable one for presenting him with a testimonial of their esteem, and more particularly for recording their sense of the valuable services which he had rendered to the Royal, the Royal Physical, the Horticultural, the Botanical and the Arboricultural Societies, and other public institutions in Edinburgh. A subscription was accordingly set on foot, and upwards of one hundred parties put their names upon the list. Among the subscribers may be numbered—General Sir T. M. Brisbane, General Sir James Russell, Sir W. Gibson Craig, Bart.; Sir Walter C. Trevelyan, Bart.; Sir W. Jardine, Bart.; Professors Christian, Trail, Goodsir, G. Wilson, Wyville, Thompson and Balfour; Dr Greville; Mr G. Patton, advocate; Mr David Smith, W.S.; Mr T. Sprot, W.S.; Dr Sellar, &c., &c.

A meeting of the subscribers was held yesterday at the Botanic Garden, when Professor Balfour gave a brief account of Dr Lawson's history, and of the various situations which he had filled in Edinburgh, such as Assistant-Secretary and Curator of the Botanical Society, and of the Caledonian Horticultural Society, Assistant-Secretary of the Royal Physical Society, and the Arboricultural Society, and Assistant-Librarian of the Royal Society. Professor Balfour alluded to the various lectures Dr Lawson had delivered in Edinburgh, and to the duties he had discharged as Histological assistant in the Botanical class at the University, as well as to the mode in which he conducted the Botanical part of the Chair of Natural Science in the New College after the death of Dr Fleming. Dr Lawson's various writings were noticed, and his contributions to numerous periodicals, and more particularly his work on mosses, which is now in the press, which is to be illustrated by nature picturing, under the auspices of Mr Bradbury. Professor Balfour concluded by stating that in all the situations

which Dr Lawson had filled he had acquitted himself in such a manner as to secure unqualified approbation. His scientific merits are well known to all the members. He is enthusiastically fond of natural science in all its departments, and to Botany he has devoted special attention. We feel that by his departure from this city we lose one whose place in our various societies cannot be easily supplied. His kind and obliging manners, his modest deportment, his indefatigable zeal, his laborious and painstaking exertions, and his thorough scientific knowledge, have deservedly placed him in an eminent position in the Scottish metropolis, and have secured for him a large circle of friends. He carries with him to the land of his adoption our best wishes for his success. May he be the means of advancing science in the College of the far west, and may he obtain that support and encouragement which he so richly deserves. May he be long spared to act as the instructor of youth, and to adorn a chair of science whether in America or Britain. The fact that the announcement this day of the completion of the electric telegraph communication between Britain and America, brings the two countries very close to each other, and on parting with Dr Lawson we feel that the connection between us is scarcely severed. In bidding Dr Lawson farewell for the present, we look forward to the prospect of again seeing him among us, crowned with new honors and with a well-earned western reputation. May God bless him, keep him in all His ways, and make him an instrument of much good in his day and generation.

Professor Balfour then presented a silver salver to Dr Lawson, with the following inscription:—"Presented to Dr George Lawson, on the occasion of his departure from Britain to fill the Chair of Chemistry and Natural History in Queen's College, Kingston, Canada, by some of his friends who desire thus to testify their regard and esteem for him, and their high appreciation of the services which he has rendered to science in Edinburgh. August 5, 1858."

Dr Lawson suitably acknowledged the compliment which had been paid to him. He concluded as follows:—

"I accept the testimonial which you have now presented to me as an earnest that I shall be held in remembrance after I have gone from among you; and although there are naturally painful feelings called up at the prospect of leaving one's native shores, still I shall have great consolation in feeling that I have not lost, but have only parted from, my many friends. I shall feel during life that I am connected with Scotland by the strongest ties of friendship—stronger indeed than any telegraphic cable, and which the agitation of the boisterous Atlantic cannot break. With regard to the future it would be vain to say much. It has been the ambition of my life to occupy a useful position as a teacher of science. I have long looked forward to it, and I have had the good fortune to be now selected for such an appointment. I feel very grateful indeed that my hopes have been realised; and my best thanks are due to Dr Balfour and other gentlemen who promoted my application. I have also to thank you, gentlemen, for your good wishes in my new sphere of labor. I have the near prospect of entering on my duties. They are duties of great responsibility, and require exertion on my part. I have much reason to be thankful for past success, and I trust that, with God's blessing, I shall be enabled to perform my duties in such a manner as will justify the confidence that has been placed in me, and will promote the best interests of the University with which I shall be connected."