

while Dalhousie College keeps many Nova Scotians at home, and there has been a slight increase in the attendance of Lower Province men at McGill during the past four years.

On and after September of this year there will be a matriculation examination for admission to the school; another most important step, and one the results of which are looked forward to by Harvard men with some anxiety. To us in Canada this may appear strange, but it is the first time that any Medical University or School in the United States has sought to fix a standard of general education for the men who aspire to be her graduates. A reduction in the number of students is expected in consequence of it; and, to make provision against the possible diminution in tuition fees for the succeeding terms, the school has been husbanding its resources for the last three years. (Report '75-'76.)

We shall now refer briefly to the work in some of the departments. Anatomy is still presided over by Dr. Holmes—better known to us in his literary than in his professional capacity. I was not so fortunate as to hear him lecture, but attended a recitation, the equivalent of the weekly examination or "grind" of our schools. The subject was the cranial nerves, and the answering, for first year students, was creditable. I noticed, however, that very many names were called before a respondent was found, silence being apparently with them the "not prepared" of our students. The humour of "The Autocrat of the Breakfast-table" glanced out here and there, and enlivened the hour. Good sensible questions were put, but no special minuteness in answering seemed to be demanded. Anatomy is a first year subject only, but practical anatomy (till January) and surgical anatomy form part of the second year studies. From what we could gather it does not appear that the same attention is given to practical anatomy at Harvard as in the London or Canadian schools. It is on the time-table from 5 to 6 daily until May; and yet, at the beginning of the second week in April, the dissecting room was empty.

The surgical anatomy demonstrations by Dr. Cheever to the second year men were excellent and just what they should be. The

examinations on this subject are by written papers. How, by the way, this most anomalous method of testing a man's knowledge on such an eminently practical subject as anatomy crept into the schools would be interesting to know. Happily, however, it is gradually yielding to the more rational system of practical examinations; and for this the profession has largely to thank the Royal College of Surgeons. We would earnestly commend to all medical teachers on this side of the Atlantic the consideration of examinations in anatomy as conducted by that corporation.

Physiology, under the care of Prof. H. P. Bowditch, received the attention that would be expected from such a well-known worker; his time being wholly devoted to the subject. In addition to lectures and recitations there are exercises called conferences, which form a feature of this school. For example, in physiology, a certain number of subjects are announced, chosen by the students, and essays prepared, which are read in due order before the class, and criticised by the Professor and students. Practical physiology is taught in the laboratory, and at my first visit I had the pleasure of seeing a class of students working out for themselves upon frogs the chief facts in the physiology of reflex action.

The method of teaching chemistry (Prof. Wood) appeared, from what we saw, to be specially adapted for medical students. In the first year, general chemistry is taught, and, to a very large extent, by laboratory work. Thus, while in both terms there are 36 lectures and the same number of recitations, 500 hours are also devoted to practical work. In the second year, medical chemistry is dealt with in the same way, and in the laboratory the urine and poisons are thoroughly studied. In this way sufficient time is devoted to the subject to enable the student to master properly the methods of analysis, thus making the teaching really effective. Pathological anatomy is well represented by that veteran pathologist, Professor Jackson, and Assistant Professor Fitz, upon whom the teaching mainly devolves. It is a second year subject, and occupies a much more prominent position than is usually given to it, there being lectures or recitations daily through-