

THE RECENT "DIFFICULTY" AT THE KINGSTON MEDICAL SCHOOL.

The unfortunate events which recently occurred in connection with this Medical Institution created much interest among both the profession and the laity. The Faculty of the School decided, some time ago, to organize a course for females, intending originally to give an entirely separate set of lectures. This plan was changed, however, and the time-table so arranged that both males and females attended the same lectures. With few exceptions, the course was smooth, until early in December, when the females took exception to the conduct of the males at one of the lectures. The lecturer on physiology, while treating of the larynx, mentioned the fact that, in former times, it was the custom in Italy to perform castration on young boys who were good singers, in order to preserve their voices from the changes which take place at puberty. This was received with laughter and applause from some of the males, which was not checked by the lecturer. On the contrary, the latter went on to dilate on the subject, and made references to this operation on the lower animals, which were received with cheers and stamping, the males at the same time looking directly towards the seven females present. The latter then left the room in a body, and made a complaint to the Faculty, the gist of their complaint being, not the subject matter of the lecture, but the manner of the delivery on the part of the Professor, and the way it was received by the male students. The learned Professor, we are told, "felt grieved at the proceedings," and considered the action of the complainants an insult to himself. He declared that everything said to the students should be known to them "in the interests of science." The male students, who considered they had derived great benefits from the *scientific* remarks of the lecturer on the important subject of castration of

little boys and the lower animals in connection with the physiology of the larynx, sympathized with their injured Professor, held an indignation meeting, and sent a memorial to the Faculty which was offensive in tone, and was concluded with the following words: "We have, therefore, resolved, that if the females are allowed to attend our classes after Christmas, or to have any connection with this College after this session, we will be compelled, much against our will, to go elsewhere next session." This was signed by 54 students.

The Faculty returned this memorial "as not being respectful," and at the same time intimated that they had not yet decided to give the government of the college into the hands of the students. Excitement ran very high, numerous meetings were held, and pledges of mutual fidelity, long and loud, were interchanged *ad infinitum*. Negotiations were opened with various medical schools. In the midst of the excitement, a proposal came from the Faculty of the Trinity School of Medicine in Toronto which filled the hearts of the students with delight, while, at the same time, it caused amazement alike in the minds of the Kingston Medical Faculty, the profession, and the public. The offer was as follows: Trinity School would take the seven who had paid their fees at Kingston, without any charge, and the remaining fifty, who had paid nothing at Kingston, for half the ordinary yearly fees.

This astounding offer, made at such a time, of course made the recalcitrant students masters of the situation, and they at once sent their ultimatum to the Faculty, demanding, not only separate lectures and examinations, but also that the females, at present attending, should not be allowed to do so after Christmas, but should wait until the summer. The Faculty being unable to accede to all these demands, a deadlock ensued, and a deputation of the citi-