

The Owl,

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THE OWL is the journal of the students of the University of Ottawa. Its object is to aid the students in their literary development, to chronicle their doings in and out of class, and to unite more closely the students of the past and present to their Alma Mater.

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RAISING THE STANDARD FOR MATRICULATION.

The University of Toronto recently proposed a new scheme of matriculation which has been endorsed in a circular issued by the Senate of Queen's University. Its most important feature is the raising of the pass standard from 25 per cent to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent on each paper. Queen's University Journal commenting on the circular expresses the opinion that the standard should be even higher, and adds that this

is impracticable until *all* Canadian universities adopt a uniform standard.

The same excuse might be offered by every university that adopted the lower standard. Had the uppermost thought in the minds of our university authorities been the giving of the best possible training to their students rather than the increasing of the number in registration, we are of opinion that no such complaint would be possible. No doubt in the management of educational institutions the financial aspect must not be disregarded, yet we can reasonably look for greater consistency between theory and practice in the conducting of affairs of those institutions whose mission is to mould the character of the youth of our country.

If we mistake not Queen's and Toronto Universities were the first to depart from the higher standard which obtained some years ago, and which exacted a minimum of 40 per cent on each paper. Later it was reduced to 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent, and for several years it has been as low as 25 per cent. Our standard has always remained at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent on each paper, with, until within the last two years, a general average of 50 per cent. Since 1893 a general average of 60 per cent has been exacted.

Thus lowering the standard for matriculation has had most pernicious effects. It is noticeable that very many students entering the universities lack the development necessary for making a thorough university course. Principal Grant at Queen's Convocation said: "Any one would be within the mark if he said that half the students in Canadian colleges would be better had they stayed one year longer in the high schools."

It is a matter of observation that the average undergraduate rapidly develops a taste for amusing himself. His love for