

If lectures are to be beneficial the work must be divided into departments, according to a detailed curriculum; the management of each department must be in charge of a specialist who can afford to make it the object of his undivided attention; the course must be wide enough to give some idea of the broad principles which underlie law, and some acquaintance with the history of the institutions, events and influences which have moulded our jurisprudence, as well as with the minutiae of law as it stands; examinations must be based on subjects rather than text-books, and must be at least as much a test of legal culture as of legal knowledge.

An attempt to draft such a scheme has been made. Recognizing what must be duly considered at the outset in devising any effective course of legal study, the necessity of placing the purely theoretical, historical and scientific knowledge of law and cognate subjects before practical training in law as it is, and in the details of its administration by the courts, it seeks to unite the functions of the University and the Law Society, and to make each of them auxiliary to the other in rearing a race of jurists whose knowledge of law, scientific and practical—knowledge as to its rise, its development, and its administration—will reflect credit on themselves, their profession, and their country. Our readers are already tolerably familiar with the outlines of the proposal. And with this, as with every similar measure, more than an outline cannot at first be attempted. The principle must first be submitted and approved, and when the outline has taken final form the details may be filled in.

The proposed Law Faculty is not without its defects; but then nothing human ever was or will be. Many of the objections urged against it are the outcome of the aversion to change which always obstructs progress; while some are purely fanciful, others are entitled to thoughtful consideration.

We are strongly of the opinion that the scheme must be so modified as to place all the Universities, as far as practicable, on the same footing in their relation to the Law Society. Otherwise the full benefit of the measure cannot be obtained, and the discrimination in favor of the Provincial University and against the others would operate unjustly.

The allegation that students taking the ordinary course of five years will be worse off than at present, owing to the abolition of the present lectures, requires little more than a passing notice. Students resident in Toronto are the only ones benefited by these lectures; only a very small percentage of Toronto students attend them; they fail of the object for which they are maintained; and, if it be thought advisable, as indeed it probably would be, arrangements could easily be made for the attendance of five year men at as many of the lectures at Osgoode Hall under the proposed scheme as it would be desirable or beneficial for them to take. The objection, in so far as it is one, falls to the ground.

One writer urges that it is impossible for a boy of sixteen to acquire a tolerable degree of skill in conducting a solicitor's business in two years, even with "a two years' dabbling in the depths of international law and Roman jurisprudence." Closely allied to this is the assertion that the student who finds