

ON several occasions attention has been called in the columns of this paper to matters connected with our courses of study, and we have had the pleasure from time to time of recording changes that have tended to increase the efficiency of our College. But while this is so, there is still one part of the curriculum which is in our opinion capable of improvement. We refer to the work assigned for the degree of B. D. From an examination of the regulations that govern the Senate in conferring this degree, we are convinced that it would be well if the course of study prescribed were considerably extended. At present the student who has made an average of over seventy per cent at the examinations in the regular work of the College is made a Bachelor of Divinity on passing with a similar average the final examination, the subjects of which are entirely linguistic. We are willing to admit that a knowledge of Chaldee and Syriac of the Septuagint and the Vulgate versions of the Bible, and of the Greek and Latin Fathers, may reasonably be required of the possessor of a degree in Theology. It however seems to us that the aspirant to a more honourable title than his fellows, should surpass them not only in his acquaintance with the ancient languages, but also in his mastery of more practical and more distinctively Theological subjects. The tastes and talents of all are not linguistic, and yet the student who has an extensive and accurate acquaintance with church history, and is able successfully to justify the ways of God to men, is surely as well entitled to a B. D. diploma as the one whose ability has shown itself mainly in the translation of Greek and Latin polemics and the analysis of Hebrew roots. He will be a better theologian than the latter, even if not so good a linguist, and may in the practical work of life bring as much or more credit upon his *Alma Mater*.

We plead, then, for the extension of the B. D. course so as to include extra work in Church history, Apologetic and Biblical Theology, as well as in the Languages. There are modern theologians who have written in modern languages, whose works are as well worth study as those of the early fathers. Theology should never be considered as a thing of the past. The questions of to-day are those with which our future ministers should be conversant, even if this leads to a partial neglect of the worthies of sixteen or seventeen centuries ago.