

becomes a valuable addition to a student's library. And I would most strongly urge upon you to prosecute those readings upon the particular subjects in a systematic manner. You thus by degrees impress upon your minds fact upon fact, precept upon precept, and doctrine upon doctrine; and although the course of study of four years may seem a long one, at the conclusion you will discover the important truth, that it has by no means been too long to learn all that is required. Irregular or desultory reading or study is of little use. The mind thus becomes stored with crudities; all becomes a mass of confusion; and you possess no distinct, no definite idea of anything. On the contrary, let each day, each week, each month, each session have its allotted, its specific work; and it will surprise all who adopt in their studies a method such as I have described, to discover with what ease their studies progress, and, at the conclusion, what a mass of information they have collected. You thus become prepared by degrees for your final examinations; and instead of finding them, as is always the case with those who are ill prepared for them, ordeals to be shunned or feared, they become pleasant conversations on matters of scientific interest, in which the examiner and the examined seem to be enjoying but a pleasant *tête-à-tête*. I assure you, that, by judiciously economising your time, and scattering your studies, as they should be, over a series of years, they become very materially lightened, and yourselves the gainers. But, if the first two or three sessions are idled away in frivolous pursuits or pleasure, and the work of four compressed into one session, and that one the last—as I have known to occur not unfrequently—the labour of that session becomes disproportionate; the student finds more to accomplish than he can possibly perform; and the result is a postponement of his examinations to a subsequent period, or a worse misfortune if he attempts to undergo them, with a consequent serious disappointment, not only to himself, but to his parents and friends,