

Hon. G. W. Ross said that when he was asked to attend the opening exercises of this department of university work he expected that he would not be called upon to take any part but to have the unalloyed pleasure of listening to the other speakers and witnessing the enthusiasm of the students. He could only say at the outset that he was delighted to notice the onward progress of the University of Toronto, and the enlarged facilities which were being provided from time to time in the various departments of thought germane to every well-equipped university. He need not indicate the steps of progress taken within the past few years. They were all familiar with that progress. They had in this building, just declared open, clear evidence that the Senate of the University of Toronto, that those concerned in its success, are determined that at least on the side of the natural sciences, they shall not be behind any other university on this continent. He was glad to hear from the President that the intention is to prosecute the good work further. Last session authority was given the trustees for \$60,000 for the promotion and completion of this department, and he supposed next session further authority would be asked to bring within a convenient centre or within convenient access of each other, all the departments in which the students of natural science were interested. He was pleased to hear from Prof. Wright that the classes here were among the largest in any department of university work. Everybody knew the enthusiasm with which Prof. Wright entered upon his work. He welcomed Prof. Osler, who was a graduate of the University of Toronto. He was one of their own people, a Canadian by birth and education, and he supposed he went to America either by choice or by necessity. Probably by choice. They were proud of Prof. Osler, first because he was a Canadian, second because he had been a successful Canadian, and third because he was a distinguished Canadian. He congratulated the President upon the evidence of expansion of the University, and he congratulated the vice-chancellor for the devotion which he had shown in every department of university work.

Sir Daniel Wilson congratulated Prof. Ramsay Wright on his admirably equipped building and alluded in complimentary terms to his ability

for teaching. The president then called on Prof. Wright to deliver his opening address.

THE PATHOGENIC SPOROZOA.

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In the course of some introductory remarks, Prof. Wright spoke of the stimulus to the various branches of biological study which he was confident would be given by the erection of the commodious and well-equipped building devoted to his department. He referred to the constant interest shown by the University authorities, and especially by Vice-Chancellor Mulock, in the progress of the work, and expressed the hope that the progress already made would lead to a symmetrical development of all the divisions of biological science in the University. Addressing an audience largely composed of practitioners of medicine, he referred to the circumstance that the youngest of the branches of special study in biology—that of bacteriology—is that which at present has the greatest interest for them. He had selected for discussion to-day, however, the biology of certain low forms of animal life—the Sporozoa—which, he said, were destined to attract the close attention of pathologists within the next few years.

The Sporozoa are a group of low forms of animal life, belonging to the sub-kingdom Protozoa, which, in consequence of the universal adoption of a parasitic mode of life, present certain peculiarities of structure and reproduction which mark them off quite sharply from the rest of the sub-kingdom. The structural peculiarities consist chiefly in the absence of any specialized organs for locomotion or the ingestion of food, while the reproductive peculiarities consist in the formation of large numbers of characteristic spores. It is to these that the group owes its class name, Sporozoa, given to it by Leuckart, who in addition to his invaluable services in familiarising us with the structure and life-history of the higher parasites, has made most important contributions to our knowledge of these lower forms. All of them are unicellular animals, which may occasionally be so large as to be visible to the naked eye, but are often—especially those interesting in human pathology—quite microscopic. Four orders are distinguished, (1) Gregarinidia, (2)