

of many matriculants to derive full benefit from their studies, and to attain the standard even in the undergraduate years.

On the evidence of the report of the University of Toronto, dated April 13, 1904, consisting of the Chancellor, and the President. On page 61 of the Pass Departments of English, French, and German, an average of two per cent. failed in the year; the rejected candidates obtained twenty per cent. instead of thirty-three and one-third per cent. and extremely unsatisfactory content the Board attributes to "the growth of the subjects by candidates and to a lack of supervision and direction, arising from the teaching staff to cope with the increasing numbers of students in the undergraduate years." Both of these causes, however, many will agree with me that there is a far more potent cause of the unsatisfactory results of the average matriculation and mental preparation. The result is a yearly increase in the number of supplemental examinations, and, what is still more, an increase in the number of those who fail themselves. The Senate and the University are compelled by force of circumstances to accept of the candidates.

The low Pass standard and the less Honor standard, our University Pass and Honor men—are not they should be.

The number of the Honor men themselves are found each year at the University of Toronto, Harvard, and European Universities, and defects in their education are to the same extent at least, as the matriculation were as high as is the condition of the Secondary system. In proof of my contention, I may say that my colleagues will bear me out in the statement that the Professional Examinations, the University of Toronto, and the University of Toronto, Pass and Honor—are rejected as insufficient scholarship as for want of the necessary preparation.

What our Ontario Universities are doing in post-graduate courses, and in the undergraduate courses.

In most University departments, the standard of the graduates are, I believe, high; but the minimum standard is not advanced in accordance with the higher educational interests of the country. The standard, indeed, has the tendency to be inadequate, and has the tendency to be lowered, so that the standard has been forced to raise the standard of the certificates to sixty-seven per cent. instead of the standard prescribed.

The position gives them ample opportunity to give a reliable opinion, mainly on the basis of the year in Ontario a student of Classical scholarship. The standard of the matriculants, who ap-

pear to be unable to distinguish the different con-  
jugations and the different declensions of ordinary  
verbs; and the compositions they send in show  
that, so far as concerns real classical knowledge,  
they are in a state of almost Cimmerian darkness.  
Owing to limited opportunities, I cannot say whether  
or not there really has been a decline in the  
character of Classical scholarship. I can say, how-  
ever, that most of the Pass men and too many of  
the Honor men, are not in possession of that accu-  
rate scholarship which is necessary for thoroughly  
good work in the Classical departments of our High  
Schools. It is even possible that there is a connec-  
tion between this fact and the smallness of the num-  
bers that now take Greek. From the nature of the  
case, however, I think it probable that there has  
been a decline. Years ago, Classics was the fash-  
ionable study. It was then generally supposed, as  
even now in some localities, that no one could be a  
gentleman who was not a Classic, and, as some will  
remember, at one time no pupil could attend a  
High School without taking Latin. As a conse-  
quence, Classics received the lion's share of attention  
and the Classical honor lists were larger than at  
present. Of late, however, there have arisen new  
and powerful claimants on the teachers' attention,  
and the amount of time now devoted to Classics is  
just the amount that will insure a Pass. The mod-  
ern system of examination has pervaded our schools  
with a business-like spirit. Passing examinations has  
become one of the exact sciences; and when twenty-  
five per cent. in Classics will suffice, not to speak of  
the September supplemental, neither teacher nor  
pupil considers it to his interest to secure more.  
The remedy, of course, is to raise the standard at Matriculation  
those attainments which will ensure thorough  
and satisfactory undergraduate work; not, as some  
advocate, to give Classics a position it does not de-  
serve in our scheme of Secondary Education. The  
Ontario Classical Renaissance should be a gradual  
one, concurrent with the growth of our material and  
national prosperity. It would only injure the de-  
partment to force it by any system of protection  
upon those who have neither the leisure nor the in-  
clination to give it the attention it requires.

In my strictures so far, I have had in view chiefly  
the University of Toronto. We are better ac-  
quainted with its condition than we are with that of  
the other Universities, and we have a better right to  
discuss it, as it is a Provincial institution. In view,  
however, of the fact shown above, that of the  
matriculated students in the first years of Queen's,  
Trinity, and Victoria, 47 per cent. entered  
through the easily revolving doors of a Septem-  
ber Supplemental, I am putting the case fairly,  
I think, when I assert that my strictures apply with  
at least equal force to the standard attained by  
these Universities.

#### SECONDLY, AS TO THE SUBJECTS.

(1) *The present differences between the subjects prescribed for Matriculation and for the Junior Leaving Examination, interfere materially with the organization of our High Schools.*

These differences render impossible in some cases, and difficult in all, a proper economy of edu-  
cational forces. An almost complete unification has  
now been effected, of the different High School and