

now far better, and much more impressively got over in *six*.

We take exception also, to the statement being generally correct, that students "drop out of their classes in February to cram for examinations." We are familiar with a good many classes in several colleges where this is not at all the case—where contrariwise, the attendance continues large to the very last lecture. We believe this to be the case in Trinity Medical College, in the Royal at Kingston, at McGill in Montreal, and in London. Another point struck us as very peculiar in the remarks we have referred to, viz., that the speaker urged the Hon. the Minister of Education and the President of University College to bring all possible pressure to bear on the Medical Council to have that body lengthen the session as suggested. The Hon. Dr. Ross, as well as the worthy President, are too wise men not to see how awkward a position they would occupy in trying to carry out this suggestion. The Medical Council being composed exclusively of medical men and medical teachers fully capable of judging what it is best and most judicious to do in a matter so peculiarly within the special sphere assigned to it by the Legislature. The Council has done very well in the past, and we have full faith in it for the future. To make a summer session of, say, ten or twelve weeks duration compulsory, might be a wise step on the part of the Medical Council, and were this done, some of the minor subjects might be taught during the summer, and thus leave more time during the winter to be devoted to work such as practical anatomy, which can be prosecuted to advantage in the winter months only.

#### OUR ICE SUPPLY.

The immense importance of the exclusion from food of all possible germs of disease is a matter which has been agitating the mind of the profession ever since clear ideas of disease germs have been advanced. Latterly, as the laity has become more or less enlightened on the subject, and have gained somewhat intelligent ideas regarding the mode of transmission of communicable diseases, great interest has been shown in the prevention of the advent of disease whether by food, water or whatever agent has been supposed active in its

diffusion. In all centres of population, not to mention rural districts, very rigorous measures have been adopted in this direction, with the result, that disease and suffering have certainly been lessened, and much wealth saved to the country. If there be one thing, more than another, which characterizes the highest civilization of the present age, and may be universally looked upon as the measure of the civilization of any given community, it is the means adopted by governments, whether municipal or general, to protect the lives and health of the populations living under their jurisdiction. True, large sums of money are annually spent to maintain the necessary machinery by which this safety is procured, but with what true economy such sums are spent, must be patent to every one.

The spread of such diseases—as scarlet fever, measles, etc., by communication between persons suffering from such diseases and those who are healthy is evident to the most ignorant; but the more insidious, though equally dangerous agent, water, is not looked upon by the uninitiated with the suspicion its importance as a means of carrying disease and death entitles it to. Our milk, meat, bread and vegetables are inspected with some degree of care in all urban localities, and it may be said that, thanks to the agitation of our Boards of Health, led by medical men, the question of pure water is the sanitary question of the day. Here in Toronto, a city noted among Canadian cities for its progression in all modern ideas of sanitation, we have had "water-works" *ad nauseam*, and it is only in the near past that the question of our immediate future supply has been definitely settled, after infinite trouble and great expense, and by the aid of experts from the United States. But as we have intimated, no amount of trouble or expense can be considered too great, in effecting the perfection of our arrangements for a full and free supply of water, of known and undoubted purity; and true economy points in the direction of making the most supreme effort, if necessary, for the consummation of this most important end. All this machinery and expenditure in the matter of quarantine, food inspection, water supply, are certainly in the right direction, but there is one important article of food which we are of opinion is answerable for a very considerable share of the disease of our cities and towns,