

## TRINITY MEDICAL COLLEGE.

WE presume that the majority of the readers of THE REVIEW have by this time fled from the haunts of civilization and are endeavouring to cool fevered brain and recuperate attenuated body in the cool retreats by Canada's many and beautiful inland lakes; or are seeking to remove the cobwebs from exhausted grey matter of cerebrum by the tonic ozone of old ocean. Therefore as this number is likely to be relegated to the neglected study table until the wanderers' return in the autumn, we have neglected touching upon many topics which will no doubt be of greater interest when the mercury descends from among the nineties where it has been exhibiting itself of late.

WE notice that the Council has lately added another huge boulder to the already over towering mountain of difficulties in the path of medical students. After 1892 the would-be medical man, before his ambitious dreams are realized, must not only attend four full winter sessions of six months each, and one summer session of ten weeks; but must also attend six months in a regularly qualified practitioner's office, and six additional months in some hospital or dispensary. In addition to all this he must satisfy the Council as to his ability by passing its three examinations, to be known as the Primary, Intermediate and Final. Of course this will not affect those of us who have already begun to imbibe at the fountain of medical education, and we can therefore afford to follow the bent of our inclination and heartily congratulate the Council in thus placing Ontario, so far as the education of her medical men is concerned, second to no other country in the world.

THE Summer Session this year has been unusually well attended, and the members of the class are delighted with the ample facilities for clinical work placed within their reach. The medical student of fifteen, or even ten years ago would be simply dumb-founded at the changes that have been inaugurated in this respect since his student days. Then the hospital work of the average student comprised an occasional attendance upon an outdoor clinic. He would stroll into the theatre of the hospital for half an hour or so occasionally, mainly for the purpose of seeing what amusement could be extracted from the unfortunate clientele always assembled there. Bedside instruction was practically non-existent. From fifty to one hundred students, with the bed of the patient as their central point, would listen to the Professor as he delivered an excellent didactic lecture upon the disease from which the patient was suffering; but the opportunities for personal examination and for testing one's diagnostic skill were decidedly limited. How different is the system of to day, a system which has been brought to its present satisfactory condition by the cordial co-operation of the energetic Superintendent and the members of the staff. The students are divided into small classes, allowing each one an ample facility for the use of the stethoscope, etc. There is scarcely an hour in the working day which has not its clinic or clinics in operation. And it must be observed that all this work is carried on with much less worry to the patient than in former days. The medical student of to-day is realizing, and properly so, that the most important factor in his education, and that upon which depends most largely his future success as a practitioner, is his training at the bedside. True, a thorough knowledge of Anatomy, Physiology and Pathology is essential for the proper interpretation of symptoms, yet how useless they may be without proper bedside training is annually evidenced by the fate of the mere "bookworm" when he comes up for his clinical examination.

## DE "DUCIBUS" SCRIBENDIS.

THE art and science of writing "leaders which must be written," whether the dog-days and their accompanying "exams" are upon the sore beset editor or not, is abstruse and exacting. Old Hippocrates, possibly, had the difficulties of the Medical Editors of THE REVIEW in his prophetic eye when he uttered as the first of his Aphorisms the sentiment that "Life is Short and the Art Long." It is not likely, however, that the editorial staff which have made THE REVIEW the best college journal certainly in the Dominion, if not in America, will be forced to cry quits by the period of inevitable reaction and stagnation that follows upon examinations, or by the stress that precedes them. The Council results are out; the last of the lists that keep the medical undergraduates upon the tenter-hooks of anxiety, and the dust of action is now at last settling and the smoke rolling away.

The deathroll is rather higher than usual. Both Trinity and Toronto University showed a decided tendency towards "stiffening," to use a market phrase, and the Council results show the same upward trend. Out of 171 candidates for the Final Examination 64 failed, while at the Primary 101 failed out of 206. In view of the ever increasing plethora of medical practitioners, this indication of a desire on the part of the "powers that be" to close the gate of entrance a little will be not unwelcomed by both practitioners and students. A cursory glance at the lists of the Council shows the Trinity men, as usual, well to the front.

Only two Honours were given, both in the Primary class, one being won by a Trinity man, the other by a Toronto student. An analysis of the Honours won in subjects, as posted now in the Registrar's Office at the Council Buildings, is very flattering to Trinity. Honours were won in seven Final subjects out of nine, by Dr. Jas. Sutherland of Trinity, the highest stand in the Final Examination. And it is significant that in Dr. Temple's subjects, out of nine taking Honours, both at oral and written examinations, six in each case were Trinity men and not the same six in each.

The question of how best to check the overcrowding of the profession, without at the same time keeping out men who would really do the profession most credit in the end, is a delicate one to settle. We may say at least this much, that the mere raising of the fees will not meet the two requirements we have indicated, as the ambitious, industrious man of limited means would thus be displaced in favor of the man more blessed of Plutus, but in the majority of cases, so far as past experience goes, more *dilettante*.

Mere lengthening of the period of study is tantamount to increasing the fees, and is open to the same objection, though in a less degree, as many students in possession of fair fortunes would be induced by the prospect of a five year course before graduation to turn their attention to some other profession, while the man whose mind is set on getting into the profession and doing it credit would in the end find the means to finish the course. The Council sought power from the Ontario Legislature, at its last Session, to exact of those registering as medical students with the Council a degree in Arts as the necessary preliminary qualification, this substantial rise in the standard not to be enforced till the Council should see fit to do so. The House refused permission, and we may now judge in what quarter the *onus* of unprogressiveness in medical standards rightly lies, not at least on the shoulders of the profession. But it is likely that a proposal will be made by the Council at its next sitting, though whether it will be adopted or not is doubtful, demanding the Senior Leaving Examination of the Education Department the equivalent of entrance upon the second year in Arts at a University, as preliminary to registration as a student, and thereafter exacting a course of