

QUEEN'S UNIVERSITY JOURNAL

VOL. XXII.

KINGSTON, CANADA, MARCH 2ND, 1895.

No. 9.

Queen's University Journal,

Published by the Alma Mater Society of Queen's University in Twelve Fortnightly Numbers, during the Academic year.

ROBERT LAIRD, M.A.,	-	Editor-in-Chief.
J. C. BROWN, B.A.,	-	Assistant Editor.
A. B. FORD, M.A.,	-	Managing Editor.
S. A. MITCHELL, M.A.,	-	Business Manager.
R. F. CARMICHAEL, '96,	-	Asst. Business Manager.

The annual subscription is One Dollar, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions should be addressed to the Editor, Drawer 1109, Kingston, Ont.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to the Business Manager.

THE University Calendar for 1895-96, Part I. has been issued. The most important change from that of last year, so far as our observation goes, is the adoption of the new scheme of matriculation for 1896-98, proposed by Toronto University, and endorsed some time ago by a circular issued by our senate. This is a decided advance in several ways. The examination may now be taken in two parts, and some of the more elementary subjects written on a year before the rest. This, if properly controlled, should be productive of thoroughness. The most valuable move, however, is the raising of the pass standard from twenty-five to thirty-three and one-third per cent. on each paper. It ought, undoubtedly, as our senate advised, to be still higher, but this is almost impracticable till all Canadian universities adopt a uniform standard. For the present, exacting examiners can easily, at 33 $\frac{1}{3}$ per cent., leave unprepared students in the high schools. We are glad to see that one modern language is made compulsory, as many of the present students and graduates regret that it was not so when they matriculated. Other changes are the combination of honour and pass work, and the increased quantity of work in physical science.

Few alterations have been made in the subjects of study in the various faculties, and these only in unimportant matters of detail. Attention might be

called to the regulations for students of practical science, on page 89, and to the fact that the examination in first year honours in classics has been made compulsory. Lastly, we observe that the powers that be have had the usual keen eye for matters of finance, and henceforward the ambitious student will pay not seven but ten dollars for registration.

* * *
Comte, Mill and Spencer, an Outline of Philosophy, is the double title given by John Watson, LL.D., Professor of Moral Philosophy, Queen's University, to his latest production.

This book, we believe, will be a valuable help to many who have felt a desire to learn something of the work done in the philosophy class-room, but who have been prevented hitherto, because there was no ready means provided whereby they could learn about the problems of philosophy.

Like all writings from his pen, this book presents with clearness and force the thoughts of the author, and is written in a style that will go a long way towards removing the prejudice that such a dry and abstract science, as philosophy is supposed to be, cannot be made attractive and interesting; while to the regular student of philosophy at Queen's, the book comes as the fulfilment of a long-desired substitute for the hurried writing of lectures.

In the opening chapter Professor Watson presents with characteristic candor and fairness the problem with which philosophy has to deal. He will not assume that knowledge of reality is possible at present, because many eminent thinkers have denied such possibility. Still the consideration of the possibility and conditions of real knowledge is the work of philosophy.

"Philosophy at first exists as an immediate feeling or conviction that things in their real or ultimate nature are not what at first they seemed to be. It looks beyond the shows of things to a reality that is felt to be implied, although it is not yet grasped by the mind as a definite object, the nature of which can be expressed in precise and definite language."

"It must be observed, however, that philosophy cannot be defined as the science of reality. For it may be that the ultimate nature of reality cannot be discovered by man. . . . I hope to show that this doctrine of the unknowability of ultimate