

failure to carry was due to the absence of one of the strongest advocates of the Bill who this year will doubtless be in his place. Under these circumstances it is probable the bill will become law. McGill Medical School will then have to consider how its pernicious provisions can be met.

The semi-annual examinations for entrance to the Bar of the Province of Quebec have taken place, and the truth of the well worn theory of the survival of the fittest has been again most startlingly demonstrated.

Some twenty-six candidates presented themselves before the Provincial examiners for the examinations, and of that number only five were counted worthy of taking their position in the professional *arena* and before the commercial world as interpreters of the intricacies of our complex but highly interesting and instructive jurisprudence.

This seems indeed a very small minority, and if a correspondingly small rate of increase in the numbers of practitioners be maintained in the future, the Bar of Montreal promises—nay threatens—to be composed of a decidedly small but eminently well qualified number of the elect. Of course there are two sides to this question of restriction, and many men will be found on both sides—men to advocate the most careful enforcement of the various strictures placed on the profession in the way of careful registrations and tedious and knotty examinations; and also on the other side, men who advocate the greatest liberality and a permission of *pratique qui peut* to the educated world in general. A medium course is probably the most beneficial, but until the number of successful candidates materially increases, there seems no immediate necessity for a decision either one way or the other.

The system according to which the Arts Dinner is held is extremely unsatisfactory. The committee adopted the plan of its predecessors, and would not advise succeeding committees to do the same. They felt most forcibly the truth of that remark of Demosthenes: “*δει χρημίστων*”; without it, none of the necessary things can be accomplished.” One of the members suggested that the institution be endowed, nothing would be more satisfactory; but until such endowment is forthcoming, some other mode of providing the funds than the present should be adopted. Either the professors should not be asked to subscribe—when an invitation would be in place, and the dinner would be a students’ dinner—or they should co operate with the students, appointing members to the committee and making the dinner a Faculty affair. The Faculty as a body is against contributing under the present conditions, and allows its share of the burden to fall upon a few professors and lecturers. And probably the Faculty is right.

A report was made at the last meeting of the Corporation, recommending, if possible, that candidates for the professional faculties should take two years’ study in the Faculty of Arts as a preliminary, and it was

thought matters might be so arranged that the B. A. and professional degrees could be taken in six years. In the FORTNIGHTLY of 12th January there was a strong plea for some such arrangement, and it is gratifying to find the authorities well disposed to the suggestion. It is nothing more than a coincidence, although a curious one, that the events should follow so closely. The idea, it appears, dates many years back, and Dr. Johnson, Dean of the Faculty of Arts, whose capacity for long and silent work is well known, has been developing it ever since.

SCIENTIFIC LITERATURE.

The literature of Engineering has been enriched by a work newly issued from the press of John Wiley & Sons, New York, 1893, entitled “Theory of Structures and Strength of Materials.” The author is Henry J. Bovey, Dean of the Faculty of Applied Science McGill University. The prime value of the work consists in the amount it adds to the present store of knowledge of these subjects which in short comprise almost everything that comes within the wide scope of civil engineering. The next interest of the book lies in the fact that the author is so closely identified with our own University. After the Principal himself Mr. Bovey is perhaps one of the most interesting figures on the teaching staff. This arises from his long association, from the actual work he has accomplished, from the benefactions he has been so largely instrumental in securing and directing, and from his enthusiasm for scientific things. In addition he has brought the Faculty of Applied Science in close contact with the profession of Engineering through the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers. The Faculty at present, if one compares it with the institution of thirteen years ago, is the best tribute and proof of Mr. Bovey’s talent and capacity for work and the direction of the work of others. The dedication of the book is a nice example of Mr. Bovey’s aptitude for recognizing the fitness of things—“Dedicated to William C. McDonald, whose benefactions to McGill University have done so much to advance the cause of Scientific Education.” The names of the Dean of Faculty and its benefactor must always be coupled together.

In 1882 Mr. Bovey published a little work on Applied Mechanics, which consisted mainly of a collection of notes intended for the use of students. The volume in question may in some respects be considered as a second edition of that work; but the subject matter has been so much added to and rearranged that it is almost a new book, and the author’s hope will be realized that it will prove acceptable not only to students but also to the profession at large. For a book containing so many mathematical formulæ, it is singularly free from typographical errors. How this immunity was accomplished does not appear unless by an almost impossible feat of proof-reading done by Mr. Chandler. There is nothing so irritating either in writing upon an examination paper or in private reading as these mechanical errors. The book consists of over eight hundred pages and serves as a text-book for all students, the elementary and advanced course being arranged in natural sequence.