

We have not got that length in McGill yet, though a growing number of our students voluntarily take the Arts course first. But it has come to be the established system at Harvard for Law, Medicine and Technology; at Columbia for Law, and at Johns Hopkins for Medicine. The great danger at the present time is that the pressing demands of commercial life, and the intensely practical attitude which is forced as a consequence on American higher education, may interfere with the natural course of development along this line, and may result in an excessive curtailment of the period of academic training. Few who know the conditions of our own country will feel any surprise that so many of our young men have been in the habit of hurrying at once into the professional faculties without over-much preliminary education. The country had need of them, and they made haste to reach their goal. But there is less reason now — especially with a well developed Faculty of Arts — why McGill should continue to run the risk of turning out uneducated specialists. Those of you who know our medical student, for example, will not be sorry if he takes to heart the advice he is likely to get from Dr. Osler next month, and devotes a little more time than has been altogether usual hitherto as to the needs of preliminary training.

But I must not be understood to be saying a single word in disparagement of our professional faculties. It is one of the great discoveries of recent years that there is no reason in the nature of things why chemists and miners and engineers of all kinds should not be just as cultured as doctors and lawyers. And so their training has now a definite place in all broad university systems. Take our own Faculty of Applied Science, and the splendid record it has achieved within comparatively few years. We are looking for a great development in the prosperity of this department of our work. If it could be properly cared for now, it would become one of the greatest centres for such teaching on the whole American continent. With adequate accommodation, it could easily double the numbers of its students. As regards medicine, I am not sure that we have not already just about as many doctors as we want. What we need is a better training for the best of them. But there is practically no limit to the number of young men whose services will be called for by this great and growing country in the field of industries and manufactures. It will be with us just as it has been with Germany and the United States, where the phenomenal increase in the number of students enrolled in schools of technology and in university faculties of applied science during recent years, is a good index of the marvellous development of the scientific and industrial activities of both nations.