

## THE VARSITY.

THE VARSITY is published on Saturdays in the University of Toronto, by THE VARSITY Publishing Company, in 21 weekly numbers during the academic year.

The Annual Subscription price is \$1.00 a year, payable before the end of January.

All literary contributions and items of College News should be addressed to THE EDITORS, University College, Toronto.

All communications of a business nature should be addressed to THE BUSINESS MANAGER.

The Office of THE VARSITY is at No. 4, King Street East, Room 10 (up-stairs).

### MATRICULATION STANDARDS.

Believing that the critic who indulges exclusively in the destructive branch of his work lays himself open to the charge of captious fault-finding, and in accordance with our intimation of last week, we propose now to consider briefly what amendments can be suggested to the present state of our educational affairs in so far as they are concerned with matriculation standards.

In doing this it is necessary to remind our readers again of the position we assume, viz.: that a true educational system must be based upon a sound philosophical principle. This principle, we take it, should be this: That each part should be complete and thorough in itself and for its own constituency, yet each should lead up to, and be an integral part of, the whole system. The reason for this is, that each branch of the school system, the Public Schools, the High Schools and the Universities, each have a special constituency to which they appeal, and which they are bound to serve. For instance, all who attend the Public Schools do not go on to the High Schools, but enter upon the business of life direct from the highest form of the Public School. So in the High Schools; all who take a course in these institutions do not go on and complete a University course; indeed but a very small percentage of High School pupils take a College course, but make a start in life after having completed a more or less thorough course in the High School.

Since these things are so, it is reasonable and logical, if not imperative, that the State shall so order and frame its educational policy, that while encouraging all to go on through all the stages from the Public School to the University, yet those who, either from necessity or choice, are not able, or, as a matter of fact, do not do so, will be able to obtain as thorough and far-reaching a course of training as possible within these limits set by the necessities of the case. In short, that those whose education, to use the word in its popular sense, ends with the Public School, shall be fitted to take their proper place in the community as intelligent, well-disciplined, well-instructed citizens; that those who go farther and end with the High School shall be able, by reason of more advanced education, to take a higher place in the community; and that those who persevere and complete a College course should, making allowance always for natural endowment, etc., be in a position to take relatively, the highest place of all, in the community, by reason of their increased advantages and the use made of them. While it is perhaps impossible rigidly to divide the classes of the community into groups such as we have indicated, a sound philosophical system should strive to do so, not with a view to create or unduly accentuate any artificial class distinctions on the basis of education and enlightenment, yet it should, taking advantage of the fact that such distinctions do, and must of necessity, exist to a certain extent in every community, suit each branch of its system most perfectly to the needs of its special and natural constituency, while encouraging all to the highest endeavour and to the completest fulfilment of desire or ambition.

If this be the true principle on which to found and administer a sound philosophical educational system, and we firmly believe it is, then it follows, naturally, that, as we stated at the outset, the keystone of the arch is the point at which the Pub-

lic School programme ends. If it be too elementary, and not advanced enough, then the whole system will be curtailed in proportion, and each constituent part more than it should be, more than each special constituency has a right to expect and, indeed, demand.

In the next place we adopt the view recently stated by Dr. A. P. Coleman, of Victoria University, that if the standard of High School education were raised, these institutions might be permitted to grant a graduation diploma or certificate to their final students, which diploma might be accepted by the different Colleges as equivalent to a matriculation certificate of fitness. There can be no doubt that, if the standard for High School graduation were made high enough, and if the final examination were properly conducted, say with the co-operation and oversight of the University authorities themselves, that the present matriculation conducted by the Universities could be dispensed with, and much time, expense, worry, and cram done away with. At the same time, such a state of things would immensely raise the status and *prestige* of High Schools, would simplify matters a great deal, and would benefit the whole educational system in a wonderful degree.

The whole question, to which, of course, we have only been able to refer in general terms, suggests, and indeed necessitates, the formation of a University Commission for the Province to which these and like matters might, with propriety and safety, be referred for settlement. We have, time and again, urged the creation of such a body, and hope that a spirit of mutual confidence and sympathy will in the end, and that soon, triumph over any petty sectional jealousies which now prevent harmonious co-operation, and expose our educational system, in a very vital point, to danger and stagnation.

### THE LECTURER ABROAD.

THE VARSITY has frequently urged upon the Faculty of University College the advisability of establishing series of lectures to the public under their auspices, and has adduced the practice of other colleges in this respect in support of its position. A closely allied custom, and one surely worthy of imitation, prevails in many colleges, of encouraging the members of their teaching staffs to make visits to different cities and towns for the purpose of delivering popular lectures on the subjects to which they have devoted themselves. We are in the habit of lamenting the indifference of the provincial towns towards our University, but we should be careful to see that we have done all in our power to remove it before we complain, and it does not seem beyond the power of the Faculty to make the slight sacrifice involved in such action. It would spread the reputation of the College; it would remove many prejudices that undoubtedly exist with regard to the work done here; it would keep their Alma Mater before the minds of the graduates scattered throughout the country; and above all it would aid in spreading knowledge amongst those who are unable to seek it at the fountain-head.

### THE VARSITY.

It is not our intention at present to offer to the public a detailed account of our paper in the past, but to call attention to perhaps the most vital change in its management that has taken place during its existence. THE VARSITY has been published for some nine years and until last fall the price of subscription has been \$2.00. At that time it was lowered to \$1.00. The motives that induced the shareholders to take this step were briefly these: that the paper might be placed upon a thoroughly business basis, and enter the literary market on the same terms as other weekly journals; that it might be brought within the reach of as many undergraduates as possible; and that by the increase in the number of readers that might be expected to follow such a step, the influence of the paper might be extended and the number of its contributors become greater. While it is not expected nor feared that the ultimate results of this change will be in any way injurious to