

Arts.

THE session just brought to a close has been a remarkably good one as regards the work of the different departments. While it would hardly be fair to take the honour classes in all departments as the criterion of the condition of things, still to a certain extent this can be done, and in the case of the majority of departments the result is anything but discouraging. The classes in Political Science, English, and History were especially strong in number of students and in quality of work done. In Political Science, for instance, the class has been regarded by some as a better one than the famous '05 class, which included among others the present assistant in Political Science. On the whole, the outcome of the year's work in the Arts Faculty may be regarded as highly gratifying.

Something was said in the Arts valedictory in connection with the present system of examinations, and a suggestion was made that few students would not welcome a change from the existing method of having practically the only test of the year's work in the spring. One or two of the Science professors, one in particular, had instituted the practice of holding monthly examinations for his own satisfaction and incidentally for the welfare of his students. Would it not be possible to introduce some such system into Arts? The examinations in the Pass classes at Christmas do not really affect the situation as they should, for the reason that they are not, as yet, regarded as on a par with the spring tests, which are considered by many students as the "be-all and end-all" of the year's work. There is reason to believe that a system of monthly examinations would go far to relieve the situation, and that the results would be more satisfactory to those who teach and those who learn. It is to be hoped that before another session comes and goes, some steps will be taken to remedy what does seem to be a real evil. It might be added that such a move would not be without precedent as some of the American universities, notably Harvard, have long been working along the lines suggested.

It is to be regretted that the proceedings on Students' Day should not be marked by more attractiveness and life. Though somewhat better than similar affairs of previous years, the proceedings this year were anything but enlivening. In the old days, of course, the valedictories were given at Convocation, but from all accounts, there were good reasons for making the change to the present system. However, there is no reason why the thing should be allowed to become perfunctory and lifeless. Here again we might well take a leaf from the book of the American colleges, where a great deal of attention is paid to the "commencement" exercises, which include a valedictory address as one of the most important features. Then again, the thing would re-act on itself, and if more attention were paid to these addresses they would be of a better quality. It would be considered an honour to be appointed valedictorian, and men would not regard it as a thing to be unloaded on the devoted head of any innocent fellow-student who will undertake it. At present the professors, with two or three exceptions, seem to