

Agricultural Department.

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The latest subject at an agricultural college—small-pox.

Are we, as students, realizing the great things we thought we would if we only had "two solid weeks to read."

Now that we have had to suffer the loss of Dr. Mills, and the Government have been obliged to appoint a new President, we hope that some power will, at the same time, touch the hearts of those who keep the key to the treasury and cause them to show a little more liberality. To use a familiar agricultural term, our college is down to a "maintenance ration." Give the heads of departments money, give them equipment, give them assistants, and they will make the institution what it ought to be, what the people of the province should shame themselves for its not being, a leading and acknowledged authority along every line of scientific agricultural investigation. We have the men; give us the means.

What about languages at the College? Three forenoon periods a week are now devoted to languages, two to agronomy, two to chemistry, and not more than two to any other subject. At present it is necessary to devote the best part of three evenings per week to the exercises assigned, if

they are to be at all well prepared. And yet this takes place in our senior year. We venture to say that not more than two per cent. of our students, who have had no previous knowledge of languages, will be able to read without a great deal of labor at the end of the term. Further, we do not think that more than that number will have any occasion to do so. A knowledge of the French or German language would certainly be valuable in more ways than one, but as it stands at present we think the incomplete study a waste of time, and we surely cannot think of devoting more time to it. We recognize the ability of our Professor of languages and appreciate her interest in us, but we humbly beg to submit the situation to the consideration of those in authority.

It does not need a Darwin to trace the evolution of agricultural education in Ontario. A quarter of a century ago we had but a one-celled agricultural college. From this has gradually evolved the complex institution, with its numerous, differentiated departments, each performing its own function. Is it not now possible to detect traces of another accessory organ? Or is the prospect of an agricultural High School in each county of the province but the result of the over-straining of faith's optic nerve?