

matriculation examination or have completely failed, and the remaining fourteen are partially matriculated. I am, I know, not putting the case too strongly when I say that, while there are, no doubt, a few mature students among the non-matriculated, able to go on with most of the work they have elected, the largo majority are taking up work which they should have done in the secondary schools. The best of them are weak in one or more subjects, and most of them are poor all around. Such students, if recognized by the College instructors, are manifestly a drag upon the regular classes.

*Elementary Preparatory Classes.*

Nor is this the only objectionable feature of the present situation. For many years a preparatory class in Latin has been maintained in University College, and this year, I understand, a similar class has been instituted in Greek. In these classes special instruction is provided for the non-matriculated and for those who have passed the formal matriculation, it is true, but who also are deficient in the classical languages. Just what the situation is we may conclude from the fact that the class in Latin usually consists of from forty to fifty—sometimes, indeed, of more—and begins with the elements in October, overtaking the first year pass work during the College session. In French and German, too,—partly, however, owing to the scheme of matriculation subjects—some students enter the classes wholly ignorant of the languages or badly prepared, and, to these, special attention has to be paid by the instructors. No provision is made, I believe, in either English or mathematics, but that none is made is by no means a proof that none is needed. Victoria College also admits freely non-matriculated students. At present over 40 per cent. of the first year consist of this class, and, of these, half are taking a full Arts course. During the first term of the present session, the Registrar tells me, twelve students received special elementary instruction two hours a week in French and German, owing, probably, to defects in their scheme of matriculation subjects. But, so far as my knowledge goes, similar students in the other departments of Victoria have been left to forage for themselves.

In presenting my objections to the unrestricted admission of students into University and Victoria Colleges, I have taken into account both the "occasional" students and the students in the full Arts course; for those who think as I do, believe that it is not in the interests of either the student or the University to admit any-