

- (1) The preparatory education required for entrance into professional study, and which is not itself professional, but general ;
- (2) The strictly professional courses of study which the University provides, and the value to be attached to the professional degrees bestowed by the University on examination at the close of its course of study.

PREPARATORY TRAINING.

With reference to preparatory education, the surest and best guarantee that can be exacted as to this is the possession of a degree in arts. In many parts of the world the attainment of such a degree is required as a necessary preliminary qualification, and everywhere except in the Province of Quebec it is acknowledged to be sufficient. The reason of this is evident. A student who, after qualifying himself to matriculate in the faculty of arts, enters on a regular and systematic course of study extending over three or four years, passing in the course of this time probably six or more rigid written examinations, each of which marks a step in his mental development, and finally graduating as Bachelor of Arts, possesses evidence of a good training which no examination of a professional board, however severe in appearance, can possibly secure. It may be said that the degree may be obtained in some quarters on easier terms than in McGill, but I have no hesitation in maintaining, from my own personal knowledge, that the statement made above is true of every British and Canadian University, and that the degrees of all might be accepted with perfect safety. Nay more, the examination in the middle of the college course, and which we call the "Intermediate," would afford an ample guarantee for a liberal education, and Ontario goes so far as to accept even the examination for entrance into the faculty of arts, which in my judgment is equal to anything that any of our professional boards can obtain by their special examinations. The absurd and unwise policy of our professional councils in this one respect has, to my certain knowledge, tended to discourage liberal education, and to fill the professions with under-educated men, more than any other cause whatever, and it has opposed a most serious obstacle, and one not existing elsewhere, to the development of