

THE MEDICAL COMMENTARY.

Among the many theories advanced to explain the brilliant play of electrical phenomena in the skies on a recent Saturday evening, we have nowhere seen any reference to the cause herein named for which this new journal claims entire originality. We point to the contest now going on amongst the medical alumni of Toronto and Victoria Universities as to representation on the Senate. Friction produced by the wind blowing through the trees, against spires, etc., has long been recognized as an important electrifying agency. A reference to the correspondence in the daily papers by "Scrutator" and others on this subject will convince anyone that there is plenty of *wind*, while the implied verdancy of the readers will supply the other requisites. The Vice-Chancellor has evidently fallen upon stormy times. We are glad Mr. Walter Barwick has been manly enough to lend his published name with its excellent influence to speak out for a man who has laid upon the altar position, energy, means, and prolonged labour to befriend, as no other man like him has befriended, the cause of education in general and medical education in particular. Two matters have filled the commentator's mind with wonder. First, under what spell have certain medical men been led to offer such violent opposition in matters so evidently to the benefit of the medical profession? If the arts men feel injured, let *them* talk and act; but as for the medical men, their motive for rebellion must be sought farther than in the so-called symmetry of the departments. Why symmetry can be named in the same breath with medical advantages while Toronto possesses such meagre opportunities for medical students, is too heavy for contemplation in this warm weather; while dissecting material is as hard to obtain as gold dust, and one solitary hospital has to supply clinical instruction to our hundreds of students. We would be sorry to impute mercenary incentives to these reformers, but should they succeed, what better could they do than double the hospital fees or post over the doors of the wards, "To clinical classes, 25 cents a peep." The other unexplained wonder is, how the Vice-Chancellor and his stone-masons could erect a \$60,000 building in the very front of Queen's Park, and neither President nor

Government know what it is. Surely it would be too asinine to imagine that having been so deluded the Senate by resolution should endorse by so decisive a majority, and thank the Vice-Chancellor for his pains. It was perhaps with a view to illuminate these dark problems that the heavens flashed out so brilliantly, but ineffectually.

General interest in any subject has always been slowly and with difficulty secured. When the conviction of the one man becomes the multiplied desire of the masses, the result has always been a momentous and decisive stroke issuing in a day of progress. So may it be with our university questions! Those who love to scoff and grieve can see only the dissensions and passing enmities. The faithful seers will look to the outcome of this agitation and diffusion of information and interest, to the results that must flow from widened enlightenment and enkindled zeal. Too long has the welfare of our educational institutions been the care of the very few who, for their pains and principles, have received no better reward from their fellows than the epithet of "cranks." Higher and truer reward was never wanting in the inward delight of duty done, like a cool deep draught to a thirsty pilgrim. No man is ever so grand as when resting in the assurance that one great theme, worth living for, has through him received stimulus and help, that his fellows of younger years have in great number through the opportunities procured by his labours been put upon a plane of greater self-respect and enlarged powers of usefulness. Such were our Ryerson, Rolph, McCaul, Nelles. "Other men have laboured." We enter not into their labours but into the fruits of their labours, and supinely, unworthily settle down to the enjoyment of our feast. But now that our lethargy has been touched, be it by the rude probings of envy or the unmanly thrusts of scorn, repudiation and anger, though our medical code be strained and professional courtesies be forgotten, it is an affair of the moment. "April showers make May flowers." Witness the case of Victoria when this earthquake and squall and unseemly turmoil arose within the hallowed aisles of the Church. Men shook their heads, and the tender wept over the downfall of their beloved alma mater; but behold in Queen's Park in nobler grace Nova Victoria rises with brighter hopes and upborne by a firmer fealty than