

examination of the various excreta which is such a valuable aid to a correct diagnosis. We would not, therefore, have Chemistry excluded from the list of necessary studies, but we would in all sincerity question the advisability of requiring a student to devote eighteen months to the study of this particular subject, and only three months to the important subject of Sanitary Science. Surely the subjects of Ventilation, Drainage, Water Supply, Heating, Prophylaxis, etc., are deserving of as much time and study, and are of as much practical importance to the doctors and to the community, as is Chemistry, to which the Council requires the student to devote six times as much study. Do we propose to increase the course on Sanitary Science to eighteen months? By no means. We do feel, however, that the course on this important subject ought to be increased to at least six months, and that the student might not be unduly burdened, the time devoted to Chemistry ought to be reduced to at least twelve months—the same time as is now devoted to Physiology and Materia Medica—two subjects which, in our opinion, are of greater value to the physician than is Chemistry.

In the subject of Materia Medica we have long felt that there is much room for improvement. It is true that the Council has abolished the subject of Botany, but yet at the oral examinations in Materia Medica, as usually conducted, the student is expected to be able to "spot" roots, leaves and barks. Of what earthly use this ability to "spot" these specimens can possibly be we have always failed to comprehend. A doctor might practise medicine for fifty years and never have occasion to identify any of these time-honoured specimens. Why, then, burden the student's mind with useless rubbish when there are so many important subjects of which it is so essential that he should have a fairly accurate knowledge? While we would not advise that the time devoted to the study of Materia Medica should be shortened, we would most earnestly assert that in our opinion the student's attention should be directed to Dosage, the composition of pharmacopœial preparations, the physiological actions and therapeutic uses of drugs, the compounding of drugs and their incompatibilities, the art of prescribing and the methods of administration, and locally applying these preparations. These subjects