

UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Vol. IX.]

McGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, MARCH 31st, 1886.

[No. 12.]

McGill University Gazette

DIRECTORS.—JEFFREY H. BURLAND, B. Ap. Sc., F. C. S., *President*; EDGAR DE F. HOLDEN, *Vice-President*; GEO. C. WRIGHT, B.A., *Sec.-Treas.* COMMITTEE:—CHARLES W. HOARD; W. A. CARLYLE, Science '87; FRED. W. HIBBARD, Arts '86; E. P. WILLIAMS, Med. '87.

EDITORS.—ARTHUR WEIL, Science '86, *Editor-in-Chief*; ED. EVANS, Med. '87; C. PERCY BROWN, Science '86; W. INGLIS BRADLEY, B. A., Med. '87; ALFRED P. MURRAY, Arts '87.

The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

All communications may be addressed to the Editors, P. O. Box 1290.

Editorials.

Owing to the proximity of the examinations and to the fact that we have already issued two numbers more than were printed last year, the editors have determined to make no further publication until after the Arts and Science Convocation. We hope our readers will be agreeable to this and will give us their moral support in the great battle we are about to enter.

Some of us do not sever our connection with the GAZETTE with this volume, so if our readers have any suggestions to make as to improvements in next year's issues, we shall be glad to receive them now and ponder over them during the vacation.

In another column will be found a quotation from the editorial columns of the Toronto *'Varsity*, regarding a question which we agitated in these columns some time ago. We are glad to see that the students of Toronto University have taken hold of the question in earnest. We sincerely hope that the agitation may spread and ultimately prevail, and that ere long the present system of examination, with its necessary (and unnecessary) injustice and unfairness; with its prizes and other unworthy motives of excellence, shall have been removed. We desire to see men aspire to a University education because of its intrinsic worth; not because, perchance, they may win a medal.

When our University degree shall be the sole and sufficient reward to the student—a testimonial of his ability rather than of his "cramping" capacity, a diploma of which he shall be proud, because coming from the best University on the continent: then shall McGill have advanced nearer the HIGHER education of her graduates.

THE MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS.

In looking over the papers set by the professors in Medicine at the late examinations, we cannot help thinking of the truth of Huxley's remark, that it requires a special faculty to be a good examiner.

The English language is apparently comprehensive enough to allow an examiner to put his questions in definite language and free from ambiguity; moreover, an examiner should ask for all he wants in the question. Yet, in some of the questions, extensive additions were made to what the question apparently asked for; and a totally different construction given to others. We could give some striking examples, but refrain.

Again, some of the papers were so long that the professors themselves could not make ninety per cent. in the time allowed for them; hence it is not the man who knows his work most thoroughly who gets the place of honor; but, on the contrary, the man who can write fastest, and has learned the greatest number of "tips." Then, after the written examinations comes the grand final farce—the "Orals." See the poor student pacing up and down the hall; he is pale with excitement; he can hear his own heart, as it beats one hundred and twenty per minute; he is all tension. In the library sits an examiner in each corner of the room. The bell rings and he is ushered in, and for *ten minutes* he is questioned and badgered by each examiner; and in this short space of time, while the examined is all excitement—incapable of thinking and scarcely able to speak, said examiner forms his opinion of that student's acquirements for the past two years, and is able to say whether he is worthy of a degree or not.

Since these examinations are necessary (though an evil) why not try and reduce the evil to a minimum? Why not have the questions set in plain and unmistakable English? Let them not be so unnecessarily long; or, if they be long, let the time given for an-