

and although it is settled as regards the first prize-winner, we have to procure information respecting the others which will cause delay. We hope to be able to give full particulars in the JOURNAL of Dec. 24th.

Professor Adams, the newly installed President of Cornell University, is in favor of the elective system for colleges, though he would not grant the elective option until the end of the second year. He believes that the highest educational success has always accompanied the greatest freedom of choice, and claims that, by the introduction of the elective system, "we are making for the first time what may fairly be called scholars, and in three or four colleges in the country the conditions of the highest success have at last been attained."

A very common mistake of inexperienced teachers, and of many who cannot be called inexperienced, is the making of too many rules. The more the child can be led to become a law unto himself the better for all concerned. It is better for the teacher, for he is so far relieved of the irksome task of enforcing a variety of petty regulations. It is better for the children, whose moral judgments are educated by being constantly called on to pronounce on questions of right and wrong. And it is better for the community, for, while undue restraint in the school is pretty sure to re-act in undue license out of school, the habit of self direction and control formed in school will follow the pupil into the street and the home.

The moral judgment of the pupil may be educated, too, by his being called on, on proper occasions, to pronounce upon the conduct of his fellow-pupils. Some of the American colleges are introducing with good results the principle of giving the students a voice in college government. The judicious teacher can often introduce the same methods with good effect in the school. If the boys and girls can be brought to feel that the appeal to them is made in good faith, that they are responsible for pronouncing a just judgment, whether in awarding a prize, or pronouncing a penalty, the keenness and honesty of their verdicts will often astonish the sceptical. And the best of it is that in such cases each pupil is taking a lesson in practical morality, in the necessity and value of truth and righteousness, without knowing it.

Why is it that the four-year course has become the stereotyped rule in all our colleges? There is surely no reason in the nature of things why a college course should extend over just four years, no more, no less. The fact that the programme of studies is usually planned on a four-year basis renders the courses to some extent unsuitable, certainly not the best, for students who can remain but two or three years. Why not, in this land of new ideas, have one-year colleges, two year colleges, and so on to six or eight-year colleges, if desirable? What educator can doubt, for instance, that a course could easily be arranged for the student who can have but one year after leaving the high-school, that would be much more profitable and complete than the typical first college year. Are we not slaves to old ideas of uniformity?

THE UNIVERSITY REFORM.

Mr. Houston, Mr. Purslow, and some others who have ventured to oppose any further appropriation of public funds for scholarships in Toronto University, have incurred the ire of sundry anonymous correspondents of the daily papers. Mr. Houston especially comes in for a large share of abuse. He can well afford to endure it, conscious that the efforts of himself and others to liberalize the Provincial University, are in the best interests of the people and have had a large measure of success. Mr. Houston has been for some time urging with true Scotch persistence the addition of a new and much needed department in the domain of political economy and constitutional law to the University curriculum. The subjects roughly indicated by the above titles have assumed, in these days of commercial enterprise and political discussion, the very highest importance. They belong to a class of questions which may be said to be of modern origin, and which are at once highly philosophical and intensely practical. It is a reproach to our National University that no provision has yet been made for the systematic study of the new science of sociology, in any of its phases—a reproach that must soon be taken away. Meanwhile Mr. Houston can console himself with the reflection that he is but having the common lot of those whose ideas are a little in advance of those with whom they are associated.

The inconsistency of appropriating available funds for private scholarships, while pleading want of means as an excuse for the non-establishment of needed chairs of instruction, must be apparent to unprejudiced thinkers. The bestowment of prizes and scholarships from the funds is a misappropriation of money which should be held sacred for strictly public uses. The poor plea that these scholarships are for the help of youthful talent in its struggle with "chill penury," is no longer available, for it has been shown that the lion's share of the scholarships naturally and almost necessarily fall to the sons of sires, whose money has enabled them to give their children a longer course of preparation than poorer men can afford. It is a pleasing and hopeful feature of the case that the students themselves, through their very creditable organ, *The Varsity*, are throwing their influence on the right side.

It is astonishing that old fogyism should die so hard in institutions of learning, especially those resting on a public foundation. The history of Toronto University has been throughout a story of struggle between the advocates of exclusiveness and the champions of equal rights and progress. The victory was long since substantially won, but remnants of the old spirit and traditions still linger. It has been but a few years since the question of publishing the proceedings of the Senate gave rise to quite a struggle. The light of publicity is even now but partially admitted through the chinks of an official summary of proceedings. The owners and supporters of the University will soon demand that the doors be thrown wide open for the admission of reporters. Step by step the process of liberalizing the institution goes on, though each step is obstructed by the *vis inertia* of hereditary love of the old because it is old, and unconscious distrust of the people. If