

11 PRINCIPAL DAWSON then concluded the proceedings by addressing the Convocation as follows;—

MR. CHAIRMAN AND GENTLEMEN, OF CONVOCATION:—The degrees granted at the close of the present session are less numerous than in some previous years, being 75 in all the Faculties. The number of students, without reckoning those in affiliated colleges and schools, has been 374, derived from nearly all the provinces of the Dominion. The session has been on the whole an uneventful one, but has been remarkable for the high standard of attainment of the students in Arts, as shown by the examinations. It has been marked by one event saddening to us all, the death of one of the most promising young men in our youngest faculty, that of Applied Science. The subjects which perhaps best deserve notice in this annual resumé are—the changes in the curriculum, the erection of the Peter Redpath Museum and the efforts to increase the endowments of the University.

The attention of the Corporation of the University and of the Faculty of Arts has been directed during the year to proposed changes in the course of study for the degree of Bachelor of Arts. These changes, so far as agreed to, after the full discussion to which they have been subjected, appear in the announcement of the Faculty of Arts now on the table for distribution. Their tendency is not to diminish the work or range of study necessary for the degree, but to allow more scope than heretofore in the senior years for choice on the part of students. In the First and Second years the course of study is fixed as formerly, and admits of no options; but in the third and fourth years it is purposed to make only one of the classical languages imperative, and to reduce the imperative part of the course in Mathematical Physics, thus allowing those students who so desire to substitute other branches of study. At the same time somewhat greater facilities are given for honour studies, especially in the fourth year. The precise effect of these changes remains to be proved by experience, but it is believed that they are in accordance with the spirit of the age, and that they will render the course more attractive and practically useful without diminishing its educational value.

The University has reason to congratulate itself on the approaching completion of the Peter Redpath Museum, which, it is hoped, will be opened on occasion of the meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science in Montreal in August next. It will, for the first time in this country, furnish the means requisite for the comprehensive study of the Natural History Sciences, and when more fully supplied with teachers, will, it is hoped, place this University in the first position in this respect. It may be said that this museum, which is in truth a College of Natural Science, places its department in advance of others in the University. This may be admitted, in so far at least as external appliances are concerned; but in the case of an institution dependent for its growth on private benefactions, we must be prepared to advance step by step rather than to advance every department equally. Mr. Redpath has shown what can be done for other departments of educational work by other benefactors who may desire to push them forward to an equal extent. There is, in short, no department of the work of the University that in one way