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EDITORIAL COMMENTS.

SUMMER SESSION IN SCIENCE.

The increasing excellence of the Science Faculty and the advance of its standard is bringing its own penalty in an increase of work upon professors and students. The professors in the Science Faculty are probably the most hard worked in the University, not even excepting those in Medicine. They devote their whole time to the work to the exclusion of private practice, and much of it is of a hard, laborious, practical kind. Several members of the staff spend seven hours a day in the class rooms and laboratories, and in addition they have the labor of preparing lectures and correcting examination papers. In addition to his teaching, the Dean has the enormous task of regulating the affairs of the Faculty and its splendid equipment.

The students also are overworked. According to the timetables as set forth in that excellent annual, the Calendar, the Science students work seven hours a day for five days a week, excepting Saturday, when it is three hours less, making thirty-nine hours a week. In the Arts Faculty the hours for all years are fifteen a week. Work done under such pressure cannot be of the best kind. The Medical Faculty had the same difficulty when the transition came from the old didactic to the new practical system, and partially solved it by adding a summer session to the course.

The same solution is open to the Science Faculty. The summer months could be devoted entirely to shop work and laboratory testing when the students could work all day long. At present with the broken hours much time must be wasted in adjusting lathes and other machines, and before the piece is completed the student is called away. If a summer session were added, the students could work without interruption, and the appliances of the Faculty would fulfil to the fullest extent the high aim of their provider.

The advantages of identifying themselves with the Canadian Society of Civil Engineers do not seem to be fully appreciated by the Students of the Faculty of Applied Science. When the Society was formed, most liberal provisions were made for undergraduates. Student membership was provided for, student meetings were held, undergraduates were asked to read papers, and when of sufficient merit they were incorporated in the transactions of the Society. For some reason the Students this year are disposed to form societies of their own, and even each year has resolved itself into a deliberative assembly. No fault can be found with this action except in so far as it prevents them attending the Society of Civil Engineers. It is hardly likely, at least it would be hard to convince a thoughtful person that even in the combined wisdom and experience of a whole class of students there is as much profit as among the Society of Civil Engineers. Engineering is essentially a practical science, and students cannot afford to neglect the experience of those who are eminent in it. Besides, it is of the greatest importance to become acquainted with the men with whom they will afterward come in contact in the practice of their profession.

Hon. J. S. Hall presented a petition before the Quebec Legislature during the last session, from the governors, corporation and medical faculty of McGill, signed by Mr. J. H. R. Molson, Sir J. Hickson, Messrs. W. C. Macdonald, G. Hague, Prof. Alex. Johnson, and other members of the University, praying that the bill introduced by Dr. Marcell respecting physicians and surgeons be not passed, and setting forth the harm it will do to McGill.

In a recent number of the FORTNIGHTLY the scope of the bill was discussed along with its bearing upon the University, and the prediction is verified that the measure would be re-introduced this session. Last year it passed the Lower House, and was only rejected in the Legislative Council by a majority of one. The