

Ontario Normal College Monthly

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NOW is "the growing time," as the Toronto *Globe* says. Many of our crammers are growing like hot-house plants. Mental expansion is forced to the limit. As the season moves along with accelerated velocity to the Christmas reaping time, and the paraffine lamp works over hours to help the panting student, the multitudinous character of the "requirements" is borne in upon the shuddering sense as not before. After twisting and wriggling through all the technicalities of apperception and attention, parting and wholing, concreteness and discreteness, there remains the work of poking about in the ashes of foretime Euclid, History, Bookkeeping, Latin, Physics and what not, in the effort to shake up some spark of life from a crumbling oblivion. It is not so much the prospect of examination on new work that fills the examinee with a vague uneasiness which gradually becomes almost a settled state of his system. We have to face no ordinary test. The Normal College examination sounds a man's attainments from top to bottom. Not the roof alone but the whole structure is subjected to careful scrutiny. It hurts the feelings at first, to have one's comprehensive knowledge of such back numbers as Euclid or Latin called into question. An invitation to work the forty-seventh proposition of the first book, or give the imperative of *Mores* seems like a stab in the back. But there can be no doubt that in most cases even the University graduate

may well inspect the foundations of his acquirements, fill in a chink here and there and stop a threatening chasm there and here, before rushing into business as a teacher of the young. The wide reach of our examinations is designed to ensure this final strengthening of the base as well as the polishing of the roof-tiles. We shall see how effective it is later on.

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THE L. AND S. SOCIETY thought itself wiser than the class of last year when it dropped the words "and Scientific" from its title. No doubt it was only the Society's extreme, almost quaint politeness that allowed a debate on Trades Unions to encroach on its valuable time. Perhaps a few members imagined that the words "and Scientific" implied a number of experiments in Physics and Chemistry as part of the regular programme. It takes a deal of reasoning and explaining to convince some people that Science is not Natural Science alone. The New York Academy of Science could listen to a lecture of Prof. Calvin Thomas on the "Origin of Poetry," or of Prof. A. V. W. Jackson on the "Parsee Tower of Silence." But our Society would relegate such themes as these to the misty realms of literary moonshine, or necromancy perhaps. Nevertheless they *are* scientific, and when the Society changed its mind on the subject last Friday, it made a change for the better. Why did our Natural Scientists lag behind in the vindication of Science?

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THE more violent opponents of compulsory Greek in secondary schools go so far as to deny that any sort of benefit may spring from picking the dried up bones of anti-