

to embrace, we can, it must be acknowledged, form a very unfair estimate, of the total amount of knowledge possessed by any student. At an oral examination, the candidate is usually examined about twenty minutes on each branch, and during that time, at least eighty questions can be put on some, and fifty on others. Can we for one moment compare fifty oral questions on midwifery—to three written ones—searching and important, as we fully admit, they can be made. It is true that the candidate *can* be interrogated upon his written answers—but beyond the clearing up of some point of the answer which may be obscure—we fail to see any advantage in it, in developing the knowledge possessed by the student. We admit that the present method of examination is open to objection—and grave objections too—but we believe the proposed alteration to be open to graver objections still. If the College would follow the plan adopted by older and therefore more experienced Colleges—they would add to the oral a written examination, and not *substitute* a written for an oral examination. Want of time—for both may be pleaded, as indeed it has been pleaded,—is one, if not the principal reason for a change from the present method—but such an objection ought not to receive a moment's consideration. What is worth doing, is worth doing well; and as the governors of the College occupy a most important public trust, we feel they should discharge that trust in a manner which will give the public confidence in the licentiates they send forth upon the country. Time with every medical man is precious—but by accepting the office of governors, they place themselves in a position, the claims of which for the time being, are paramount, and we feel that any complaint of want of time is not deserving of a great deal of consideration. Even should the majority of the governors think the proposed change desirable,—we sincerely hope they will not,—we would call attention to the fact that as the student will have to answer three questions on seven subjects, and two questions on two subjects—making twenty-five questions in all—three hours—the time allowed for answering—is, beyond a doubt, altogether too short. It gives simply eight minutes and a quarter to each question, a time, in which it is in our opinion simply impossible even to write an answer to such a question as should be given, much less give it that thought which it doubtless should have. Were the student a short hand writer—even eight minutes and a quarter would still, we believe, be too short. At the London College of Physicians, where the written examination extends over four nights (on the first and second professional—analagous to the primary and final examination of McGill University), only six questions are allotted to each evening, and three hours are allowed in which to answer them—thus giving half an hour to