

themselves on the commodious size of their new apartments. But the growth of the institution since that time has been so rapid that now evidently something must be done to provide accommodation for the increased number of students and to keep the rooms in a proper state of ventilation. It will be remembered that immediately before the holidays many of the students were taken sick and were compelled to leave for their homes a week or two before the closing of the college. This was without doubt owing to the want of cleanliness and ventilation. Observe, from two till six in the afternoon four lectures are given in the room known as the Physiology class room. During this time the windows are seldom, if ever raised, nor are there any other means whereby ventilation might be secured. The number of students in this room is, from a hygienic point of view, entirely disproportionate to its size. In every way it is too small, the seats being so crowded that it is almost impossible to write the lectures and in fact many of the students are compelled to take notes with no other desk than their knee. With other suitable rooms in the building it is hard to account for the fact that they are not utilized, unless it be that the janitor wishes to save himself a little extra exertion and the faculty the price of light and fuel. Nothing leaves such an impression on the mind as examples, and there is something almost absurd in our learned professors, the guardians of the public health, lecturing in a crowded room of students in an atmosphere reeking with foul fumes. In fact, many of the students complain that they are sensibly affected by the fetid air of the lecture room. The state of the dissecting room, at the present time, is also very questionable. Bones and flesh, in all stages of decomposition, are scattered around the room, the scene being everything but picturesque or agreeable. It is a matter of vital importance to the welfare and growth of the institution that the professors, pre-eminent as they are in their various subjects, should enforce above all things a better state of the hygienic in the Royal College.

#### THE MUSEUM.

**D**URING the past year a large number of new cases have been erected for the reception of specimens, so that sufficient accommodation is now provided for more material than is at present on hand. Friends, who can send us objects of interest or value, need not suppose that we are overcrowded with specimens. Last summer the Curator visited the Oil and Salt regions of Western Ontario, and secured specimens of both the crude and manufactured articles, through the kindness of gentlemen in charge of the different works. A number of Geological specimens, including rocks and fossils were also collected.

Upwards of 1,800 sheets of mounted plants have been added to the Herbarium, greatly increasing its value. The following donations have been received, and the thanks of the University are due to the donors:

Dr. Neish, Jamaica, two boxes of Nat. History specimens, including shells, corals, insects, fishes, &c.

Prof. Goodwin, shells from Jamaica; fossils from Trenton limestone near Kingston; fossils from Dalhousie, N.B.; alcoholic specimens of fishes, mollusca, &c., from Baie Verte, N.B.

Prof. Marshall, porcupine fish, and saw of saw-fish. Dr. Williamson, specimens of minerals.

Miss McDonald, collection of silver and copper coins.

K. N. Fenwick, M.D., skeleton of turtle.

M. J. Woodward & Co., Petrolia, samples of crude and refined petroleum, paraffine wax, &c.

Mr. Kidd, Goderich, samples of salt and brine.

Mr. R. C. Murray, fossil from Chaumont.

Mrs. Nicol, bark of lace-bark tree, Jamaica.

Mr. J. Montgomery and Rev. J. Cumberland, a very large sturgeon from Amherst Island.

T. R. Dupuis, M.D., specimens of recent lava from Vesuvius.

Mr. A. Macauley, specimens of stems cut by beavers.

Charles Archibald, Esq., Gowrie mines, Cape Breton, carboniferous fossils, stems of trees, ferns, &c.

George N. Hay, Esq., St. John, N.B., collection of alcoholic and other specimens of fishes, mollusca, &c., from the Bay of Fundy. Some of these were presented by Master W. Matthew and others.

Charles E. Brown, Esq., Yarmouth, N.S., box of Natural History specimens.

#### SKATING.

**S**INCE the foot ball season closed the students have been restricted in their exercise to practice in the new gymnasium or to walking, and so when it was announced that the ice on the lake was fit for skating, a meeting of the students was held and a committee appointed to select a suitable part of the ice, and to obtain material for a huge *bon fire* to light up the scene during an evening's skate. The spot selected was opposite the Ontario foundry, at the foot of West street. During the day chosen for the skate, the 16th inst., a large quantity of wood was placed in position on the ice, and at about 8 o'clock in the evening it was lighted and soon broke into a fierce blaze. About 300 of the students and their friends had assembled on the ice and the Principal and several of the professors with their wives were also present. The ice was in splendid condition and several of the students gave exhibitions of fancy skating, which were well received, the efforts of Messrs. Irving, Smith and Pirie, being particularly noticable. After a number of college songs were sung around the fire the assembled skaters dispersed and the fire slowly died away. The committee consisting of Messrs. Robertson, McCrea, Smith, Irving, Grant, Pirie, Hay, Farrell, Minnes and Goodwin, (Secretary), deserve much praise for the able manner in which they made all arrangements.

It is proposed to have another evening's skate and bon fire as soon as the weather will permit, when no doubt some new features will be introduced.