

under certain difficult circumstances. Scholarships are founded for the encouragement of learning, and in framing examinations for the selection of scholars it might be well to extend the plan followed in some cases of making these tests serve the purposes of extending knowledge on a wider basis, rather than of intensifying the acquisition of bigger heaps of facts.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*

Students and Work.—To students who are diligently inclined, it is as refreshing to get back to systematic work once again as it is, at the end of the session, to lock up the books and turn to less arduous occupations. The discipline of lectures and classes is as invigorating as the cold blast which heralds the approach of the winter, and the fact of having plenty of work to do, coupled with the will to do it, is an excellent and consoling set off to the dreariness of the autumnal skies. The energies must be braced up for a good six months' "spell" of work, broken only by the ephemeral and short-lived festivities of Christmas time. No one can dawdle with impunity under present requirements. Every moment lost at the beginning will have to be paid for later on, a fact that the beginners are apt to ignore in the happy excitement of their new surroundings.—*Hospital Gazette.*

Physiological Action of Iron.—In a preliminary note in the *Vratch*, No. 29, 1888, p. 561, Dr. Skvortzoff publishes the results of experiments on dogs, carried out by him in Professor Tümas's Pharmacological Laboratory in Warsaw, with the view of determining the action of iron on nitrogenous metabolism in a healthy organism. The following are his conclusions: 1. Iron has no marked influence on the nitrogenous metamorphosis in a healthy system. 2. On the internal administration of iron in daily doses over 0.02 or 0.03 gramme, the assimilation of the nitrogenous ingredients of food decreases, though but slightly (from 98.4 per cent. before the experiment to 97.0 per cent. during it). 3. After venesection the assimilation somewhat increases, both on the administration of iron and without it. 4. On the administration of iron with food after venesection, the restoration of hæmoglobin proceeds more rapidly than without iron. 5. The same holds true in regard to the body's weight.—*Brit. Med. Jour.*