

MONTREAL, December 22nd, 1879.

*To the Honorary Secretary of the
Ladies' Educational Association.*

MADAM,—I have the honour to submit herewith my report on the course of ten lectures on "Astronomy," delivered between October 6th and December 8th of this year.

The attendance on the lectures was very good, but how many of those present were technically "students" of the special subject, I have no means of determining. I have reason to believe that there were, as usual, many "auditors" who studied, as well as "students," who did not present themselves for examination. Between these two classes there is no real distinction. Both are practically students as well as those recognized students who tested their progress at the examination on December 15th.

Of these latter the number was unexpectedly large; the largest, in fact, that I have ever had on such an occasion, namely, forty-one (41).

The number was the more remarkable inasmuch as the subject was one of the most difficult of those with which I have had to deal. The difficulty was perhaps concealed by the extent to which memory might have been called into action; but I dwelt chiefly on those parts which exercised the reasoning powers.

Thirty-four candidates sent in papers, and the general answering was eminently satisfactory. Seven were placed in the First Class; seventeen in the Second; and eight in the Third; the standards being the same as usual.

The contrast between this result and that obtained seven years ago, when I lectured on the same subject, is very striking, as showing the healthy growth of the educational spirit in the Association.

In making my report then, I expressed my regret, first at the smallness of the number of candidates at the examination, viz., 9 out of 37 who had registered themselves as students; and secondly, at the very marked disproportion between the First Class and the other two classes, amounting, in fact, almost to a total absence of

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