

# Queen's College Journal.

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## Queen's College Journal,

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**I**N the States the tendency seems to be in  
the direction of shortening the term of  
instruction required in order to gain academic  
degrees. President Eliot, of Harvard, partly  
favors this idea. In his recent annual report  
he seems to think it advisable to shorten the  
ordinary college course, especially for those  
who contemplate entering university depart-  
ments and professional schools. He strongly  
urges that admission to such advanced classes  
should be open only to those who have pre-  
viously obtained an academic degree.

With the latter part of his suggestion we can  
agree, but we do not think that the trend of  
opinion in Canada is in line with his plan of  
shortening the ordinary college course. In  
fact the tendency in our own universities and  
colleges is in the opposite direction, and only  
recently the medical course has been made a  
four year course instead of three, unless the  
matriculant has obtained a degree in Arts.

\* \* \*

Much may be said against making a medical,  
law or divinity course longer for a student who  
has no degree than for one who has, but we  
think that the experience of most institutions  
of note will warrant the former plan.  
Of course the possession of a Bachelor's di-  
ploma does not always mean fitness for higher

study, but it certainly has a meaning in that  
direction, and as long as the arts or college  
course is kept out to its full length and up to  
its best standard, that meaning will be more  
and more marked.

\* \* \*

In Columbia College, a student upon finish-  
ing his junior year may enter at once upon the  
work of any of the university departments,  
and upon completing his first year's work there  
he receives his academic degree. In other  
words, the first year of professional study is  
allowed to count also as the fourth and last  
year of academic or arts work. In certain  
cases this plan might be desirable, but we  
think that the witness of professional men  
generally will bear us out in saying that the  
years of college training are not wasted, and  
the more of them we can take the better it  
will be. No stronger testimony to the fact is  
needed in our own college than the return of  
men who have already spent seven years in  
arts and theological work, to take a course of  
special lectures in the middle of the ses-  
sion. This we have seen in our Theological  
Alumni. And with such an example before  
us we would be loath to see the college course  
reduced to three years under any consider-  
ation.

\* \* \*

We must bear in mind, however, when criti-  
cising our neighbours across the line that their  
college year is longer than our own and  
hence such suggestions appeal to them different-  
ly from what they do to us. A college year at  
any of the first rate colleges in the States  
extends from middle of September till last of  
June, nine and a half months. Four years  
thus means 38 months actual work. With us  
the college year is from October to May, seven  
months, and four years thus means with us  
28 months actual work. It appears then that  
three years in the American college is really a  
trifle longer than four years in the Canadian  
College. Recognizing this difference, how-  
ever, we still hope that the full length of time