

tion. In England a boy often remains at school for several years after he is able to matriculate. In Ontario many pupils cannot be retained after they have reached the pass standard, or they cannot be induced to go beyond it.

### *Non-Matriculated Students.*

Directly connected with the question of matriculation is that of the admission of non-matriculated students who take a whole or a partial course.

The object of a matriculation examination is evidently to enable the authorities to find out whether the candidate has been properly prepared for the undergraduate courses. As a general rule, therefore, no one should be admitted who cannot give this proof.

Under the system of Junior and Senior matriculation, there has grown up in the Provincial University a condition of affairs which, however necessary it may have been in the early history of our educational system, seems to many of us to be now unnecessary.

Let me present the facts to you as I have ascertained them:\*

For the last nine years—from 1894 to 1903, of the total attendance in the first year in Arts in University College, 40 per cent. has consisted of non-matriculated students, and 19 per cent. of the total attendance in even the second year has been of the same character, not to speak of a few in the higher years. The statistics also show that a large percentage of these non-matriculated students have taken the full Arts course, the rest being "occasional" students taking one or more classes. These are all called "non-matriculated"; but it must be understood that some of them are partially matriculated. Of the 48, for example, in the present first year who are taking the full Arts course (I am not here taking account of the "occasional" students), thirty-four have tried no

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\*The statistics in reference to University and Victoria Colleges are from reports to the Senate and supplementary statements supplied to me by the Registrars. Since my address was delivered, the Chancellor of Victoria has, however, claimed, in a letter to the newspapers, that the number of non-matriculated students in Victoria taking the full Arts course in the present first year, is smaller than I have made it. I have accepted his statement, but have pointed out that special reports to the University Senate for the years 1896-1901, inclusive, show that during this period almost 34 per cent. of the total first year's attendance in Victoria, taking the full Arts course, were non-matriculated students. From 1894 to 1903, inclusive, the statistics show that 30 per cent. of the first year's attendance in University College, taking the full Arts course, have also been non-matriculated. And, of the non-matriculated students at University and Victoria Colleges, 60 per cent. fail each year to pass the Senior matriculation examination, thus demonstrating the truth of my main contention.