

MANITOBA COLLEGE.

Literary Association's First Open Meeting of the Session.

Rev. Dr. Bryce discusses important Educational Problems—An Entertaining Programme of Music and Reading—Presentation of Prizes won last year.

The first public meeting for 1894-5 of the Manitoba College Literary society was held in the spacious convocation hall of the college Nov. 2, 1894. There was a large audience present. After a musical and literary program the Rev. Dr. Bryce, honorary president of the society, delivered the following inaugural address:

Winnipeg is becoming an important university city. Through the energy and zeal of several religious denominations in founding and maintaining colleges, and through the formation of a provincial university, which receives a small government grant annually, Winnipeg has become a centre of higher education worthy of notice. It is the educational metropolis of Manitoba, but it is also found to be from year to year of service in extending knowledge to the vast North-West Territories and the province of British Columbia. The colleges of St. Boniface, St. John, Manitoba, Wesley and the Manitoba Medical college, nestling under the wing of the University of Manitoba, have thus succeeded in making Winnipeg a centre of educational force. When it is considered that the whole population of Canada west of Lake Superior does not exceed 400,000, the statistics of Manitoba university are not a little surprising. The following are the numbers of the various classes in the several faculties of the university for the year 1894:

Preliminary arts examination, 87.
Medical entrance examination, 33.
Previous arts examination, 62.
Junior B. A. examination, 39.
Senior B. A. examination, 44.
University law examination, 6.
Medical school attendance, 120.
Theological students not counted in arts, 60.
Total, 451.

This result, as the result of only seventeen years, for the university was founded in 1877 and its first degree was conferred in 1880, is remarkable. Two hundred and sixty-four candidates have in fourteen years received the degree of B. A., seventy-six that of M. D., and ten the degree of LL. B., and this without including those coming from other universities. The examinations for the licensing of medical men for the province are entirely under the control of the university. It was a wise step taken when it was decided that there should be only one source of degrees in the province of Manitoba. It has helped to give standing to the degree, and to free the province from the unseemly spectacle of rival universities debasing the standard of education to gain a temporary advantage. None of those who stood by the cradle of education in Manitoba ever thought of Winnipeg springing up in so short a time to be a full-grown Minerva—a queen of letters.

AN EDUCATIONAL PROVINCE.

If the results of educational effort in the higher sphere of education in Winnipeg have been thus so striking, the progress of public school education in the province of Manitoba has been no less remarkable. It was in 1870 that schools were begun under provincial control. For several years the growth of schools was slow, but as population came into the province the school system was used to begin many new schools in the rising settlements. The unfortunate division by which separate schools were allowed hindered the spread of schools in certain localities for a number of years. Since 1890, the year in which the new Public School act was passed the increase has been great. This is all the more remarkable when it is remem-