

THE VARSITY

A Weekly Journal of Literature, University Thought and Events.

VOL. XII.

UNIVERSITY OF TORONTO, NOVEMBER 23, 1892.

No. 7.

Editorial Comments.



WE suppose there never yet, in the history of civilized nations, existed an institution which had not some enemies. There are always persons to be found who will persist in looking on the dark side of things, either because they are so formed as to be incapable of looking on the bright side, or because, from motives of self-interest, they choose to be pessimistic. Such a person, it seems to us, must be the writer who signs himself "Medical Bystander," whose sombre reflections from month to month have been appearing in the *Ontario Medical Journal*.

We were, therefore, not surprised to see last month that this medical Jeremiah had issued his second "Book of Lamentations." I am sure the members of our honored faculty must have felt for the gentleman. We would respectfully suggest that he try to assist nature in throwing off this horrible *melancholia* that has taken possession of him. Such decided pessimism is not conducive to good digestion. We regretted seeing this latter effusion, partly because the deductions seemed to be drawn from supposition that had little foundation in fact, and partly because, underlying the smooth surface, there seemed to run a strong desire to breed dissension among the members of the faculty itself.

Now we will not reply directly to the gloomy forebodings of "Medical Bystander." There are many reasons why we do not, the chief one being that we hope to use these columns to better advantage. This paper is edited by the students; it expresses their views alone; it is entirely free from professorial dictation. For these reasons we submit that the opinions we now voice,—the unanimous opinions of our medical students,—should have some weight with those of our graduates who, no longer being in touch with the students, have no other way in which to learn their views. We simply state what we know to be true. We have no axe to grind. If things were otherwise, we know of no reason why we should not say so.

Many of our graduates reading such articles as we have alluded to, may be of the opinion that the students are suffering. They might be led to think that our medical course of instruction was not so good as it might be. That is the impression we wish to see no one receive or retain. On the contrary we believe that our course of instruction is in advance of any other in Canada. As students we know nothing of any bad feeling existing among the members of the faculty; we only know that they all work harmoniously together in instructing us in the various departments. There is no hitch in the work.

After all that is the main thing. A faculty justifies its existence and right to consideration in proportion to the value of its course of instruction. That faculty which

gives the best course deserves the most credit and should get the largest patronage. Before this every other consideration fades into utter insignificance. Although petty squabbles in a college professorate would be deplorable, the country need not be moved by false reports or misrepresentations of them, provided her sons are being instructed in the most efficient manner possible. And we claim this is exactly what our faculty is doing. Never before was such a complete and thorough course of instruction given in our college. While we say this, we wish to cast no reflection on those who are not now on the staff. It may be the spirit of an age; it may be the vigorous ideas of those who keep in touch with the latest medical investigations—never mind what it is, so long as we are trained to discuss and practise our art from the latest, most scientific standpoint. And that is what we are trained to do. Pathology, the pole-star of medical science, is treated of as such a subject should be; and the same can be said of every subject in the curriculum.

Perhaps in *number* our students may decrease, but we believe they will not; in *quality* they will not, this we know. As now, in the years to come the student who is not afraid of a good stiff exam., with the probability of being plucked if he has not got up his work, will come to us. The excellence of our course will attract him. A college whose educational status is so high, and whose facilities so admirable, cannot fail to secure students. Yet there are some who will be plucked, and these will perhaps go to swell the ranks of a college whose faculty is "active and united, making herself strong in a good staff and a steady, fixed purpose."

Were there anything radically wrong the students would be the first to know it, for they would be the first to suffer. Yet we can assure our readers there never were students more loyal to a faculty than ours. And the reason is not far to seek,—because they feel they are getting more for their money here than they can get in any other college. Many of us come from a great distance—past the colleges we have heard lauded so much. And if "Medical Bystander" would know the reason why, any of our freshmen will tell him.

If there was anything to be gained by such letters as we have referred to, there would be excuse for them. It looks as though a little spite, or possibly disappointed ambition, is at the bottom of them. He would like to sympathize with some of our professors, forgetting that they are quite satisfied with their large classes of students, and do not feel any hunger for sympathy. Our medical Jeremiah seems to have entered the list of prophets as much to see himself in print as anything else. He has merely proved that, no matter how much a man would wish to, he cannot find anything to say against the good teaching of the faculty,—and that is exactly the assurance our country