

In them the professors are wont to collect their information from an almost infinity of authorities, so that their lectures resemble nothing more closely than Jacob's coat of many colours. We do not say this disparagingly, for it is just as legitimate in a professor of the practice of medicine or surgery to consult his sources of information as a teacher of English literature to refer to his. It is not that to which we refer, but to the custom of reading this collection of matter to their classes, and expect them to be able to follow them through all the figures of rhetoric for half a dozen hours daily, or, in default thereof, expose them to all the terrors of failure on examination day. It is not easy for an exhausted student to follow a professor, going at a breakneck pace, in everything he says, and yet such a thing he is expected to do.

We hold that some better means is available for imparting instruction than this. Surely it should not be necessary for us in the latter part of what is called, with much exultation, the 19th century, to break our health and spirits doing something which is not required. If, instead of asking students to write their lectures, the Faculty would publish them in some convenient form, and give them to the students for perusal; this might be an innovation. It might not tally very well with the boast of *semper eadem*, which we spoke of a little while ago, but it would be an infinitely better plan than the homicidal system of the present day. The students have sent the Faculty of Medicine a petition asking the different professors to consent to have their notes published, and could thus obviate all the drudgery and unsatisfactory results of the system now in vogue. It is to be hoped that the professors may entertain the proposition which has been placed before them, for we are convinced that by putting their valuable notes into the form of a book or a pamphlet, they would be relieving the already overworked students of a piece of unnecessary labour, and would be doing much to facilitate the perfect acquisition of knowledge, which is so necessary in the medical man.

The present way of doing things is little better than it would be to have an Act of Parliament passed compelling the people of Canada to pay their railway fares, and then after that to trudge to their destination on foot through all the inclement seasons of the year,

while the idle locomotive whistled by those unfortunate wretches, who were detained in consequence of sentiment from availing themselves of the empty coaches bringing up the rear of the steam-engine. Reforms are usually slow, but we hope the University of McGill will do something in the matter under discussion for the amelioration of a crying evil.

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#### UNIVERSITY CONSOLIDATION.

The subject which came up for debate, and which was, we think, treated with deserved ability at the meeting of the University Literary Society, held on the evening of Friday, the 22nd Nov., is one which certainly deserves the attentive consideration of all those who have the true educational interests of our country at heart. It is a question which has largely occupied the attention of university men for some time, and one which has just claims upon their consideration, inasmuch as their interests are directly involved in the matter, and we earnestly hope that the day is now not far distant when it may receive even a greater share of this attention, and be solved so as to result in an improved state of things. For our own part we must confess that our sympathies are with those who sustained the affirmative side of the question during the debate, and whose advocacy was rewarded by a large majority in their favour at its close, since we believe that any step towards the consolidation and centralization either of the Universities themselves or their examining bodies, is one in a right direction, and one which should be welcomed as such by all the true friends of education.

We take it for granted that those who oppose us as to the means, are yet of one mind with us in our earnest desire that the benefits of university culture should be much more widely extended than at present; that not only those who are designed for the learned professions, but also those who intend devoting themselves to the different branches of Canadian industry, should have this training, and should possess to as great a degree as possible that breadth of mind which we, as university men, are prone to consider, as a general rule, culture alone can give; for it is evident that in the coming years the Industrial Society of