

COLUMBIA COLLEGE.

II.

Organization :—From the point of view of the students it is convenient to say that Columbia now consists of seven schools. From the administrative point of view it is almost more convenient to say that Columbia consists of the College, that is, the School of Arts, and of six University faculties : Law, Medicine, Mines, Political Science, Philosophy and Pure Science. The Government consists of the President, the Trustees, a University Council (consisting of two members from each faculty, and dealing with matters of common concern) and a Faculty Council consisting of the faculty of each school, and presided over by the Dean of the school.

Courses of Study :—In the first year the curriculum is rigid, in the second and third years elective courses are allowed, and in the fourth year all the subjects are elective.

The seniors may take the first year in the professional schools, as a part of the equipment of the A. B. degree. In this respect Columbia is quite unlike Toronto, as also the system of examinations, but I believe that it is essentially the practice at Oxford, and there seems to be a good many arguments in its favor.

The Library :—Contains 140,000 volumes, annual additions being about 15,000 volumes. Said to be rich in important series and sets of books, periodicals, transactions of societies, and collections of historical material. Open from 9 a.m. till 11 p.m. The men work among the books. Tables always filled. The minimum amount of noise. Any book, not a reference book and not belonging to a set, nor to the small desk library of say 100 volumes (which are changed from time to time) may be taken out for three days at a time. No inconvenience seems to arise in the working of this rule. Last year out of 26,632 books loaned, less than 100 were lost, and none were stolen.

Public Lectures :—Successful courses of public lectures are delivered in co-operation with the Cooper Union, the Museum of Natural History and the Metropolitan Museum of Art. The Faculty of Philosophy has thrown open certain of its lectures to the public, and the Faculty of Political Science, while deeming it unwise to follow the example of the French Universities in this respect, has endeavored to meet the needs of the public by establishing short courses of lectures upon subjects of History, Political and Legal Science, Political Economy, and Sociology, to be given in the evening and without any charge for admission.

Aliter :—The men have lockers in the basement for their books, and coat rooms with attendants in charge, 101 societies and clubs but no general society, three or four weekly papers and one magazine. Athletics are sickly, and the smoke of the cigarette ascendeth forever and ever. They come from 42 of the States of the Union, and from 21 foreign countries. They are interested in everything under the sun, and are ready to discuss anything from the liability of the bailee at early Germanic Law to the financial arrangements of the Home Rule bill. In temper they are catholic and critical. Scattered among them are lawyers, journalists, theologians, politicians and students. They wear no gowns, carry no canes, do not rise on the entrance of the lecturer, are given to asking many questions, have no competitive examinations, never scrap and tell no untruths about their progress in their studies. It is not surprising then to find that they are not much given to nonsense, but rather to inquiry and comparison, that they are not unkind to the foreigner and are very apt to say what they mean.

Fellowships :—Next year there will be 24 Fellowships, at present there are 16 (with an allowance of \$500 each,) and 5 of these are in Political Science. They are awarded on application and the presentation of a Thesis. The ap-

plicants are quite numerous; in 1890, I am told, amounting to 80 or 90. The men who hold the fellowships are not required to do any teaching and every encouragement is given to those who are pursuing special investigations. The men attend the lectures and the seminaria and work continuously at these Theses, at the end of a year they go up for their Master's, and after two years for their Doctor's degree. The candidates for these degrees are not accepted on sight. They are required to know much and to have done something.

The School of Political Science :—I think it was in 1814 or 15 that Dupont de Nemours, the Economist, the Physiocrat, while spending the period of his exile in this country, was asked by Jefferson to draw up a scheme of national education for the U. S. Among other things, he recommended the establishment of a National University at Washington which was to contain a school of Political and Social Science. But the times were not very favorable. The country was at war and the plan fell through. The National University is not yet established and it was left to Columbia to establish in the eighties, the first school of Political Science on the continent. Since 1884 the development of the school has been rapid and uninterrupted. New chairs have been established with liberal salaries, new courses of lectures opened, much attention given to work in the seminaria and the work of investigation and publication pushed steadily on. The Professors are apparently given a pretty free rein, and the whole College shows a splendid combination of authority and liberty of organization, and of freedom of individual initiation. The students here are apt to be very enthusiastic when speaking of the future of their school and occasionally go as far as to make unholy comparisons; and really, when one thinks how much has been done here already and that the men who have achieved it have still 30 or 35 years of working life before them, and when one thinks of the size of their field, and the importance of their investigation, one is apt to be very hopeful about the future of the School, and of the College.

Among other things courses of lectures are delivered in *History*, Constitutional History of Europe, Constitutional History of England, Constitutional History of the United States, American Colonial History, the U. S. during the Reconstruction period, France since 1815, Relations of England and Ireland, Political History of New York, History of Diplomacy, History of Political Theories, Historical and Political Geography.

Law :—History of European Law, Institutes of Roman Law, Systematic Jurisprudence, Comparative Constitutional Law, International Law, International Private Law, Comparative Administrative Law, Law of Taxation, Law of Municipal Corporations.

Economics :—The science of Public Finance, Financial History of the United States, Tariff History of the United States, Taxation and Distribution, Railroad Problems, History of Economic Theories, Political Economy, Historical and Practical Political Economy, and also Sociology, and Statistics.

I have written down this long list in order to give an outline of the ground that is being covered in the lectures here, but if Columbia's curriculum contained only four courses of lectures, viz. : Those in the History of European Law, the Institutes of Roman Law, and Jurisprudence by Prof. Munroe Smith; and that in Finance by Prof. Seligman, it would still be well worth the while of a student of Political Science to spend at least a year in post-graduate study at Columbia.

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Brown has become a semi-military college. Military tactics are required in Freshman and Sophomore years, but are elective in Junior and Senior years.