

OUR UNDERGRADUATES.

The list of undergraduates of the University of Toronto for 1879 is now out and bound up with the examination papers of last year. The undergraduate number as follows:

Faculty of law 39; of these 4 matriculated in or before 1870, 1 in '71, 3 in '73, 2 in '74, 1 in '75, 2 in '76, 3 in '77, 11 in '78 and 12 in '79. Of these some have dropped the course, but at least 25 of them are actively proceeding to the degree of L.L.B.

Faculty of medicine 282; of these 21 matriculated in or before 1870; 5 in '71, 1 in '72, 12 in '73, 3 in '74, 9 in '75, 17 in '76, 116 in '77, 57 in '78, 41 in '79. At least 200 of these are actively proceeding to the degree of M.B.

Faculty of arts 609; of these 35 matriculated before 1870; 24 in '70, 18 in '71, 15 in '72, 20 in '73, 42 in '74, 31 in '75, 59 in '76, 88 in '77, 121 in '78, 186 in '79. Not taking into account the 23 girl undergraduates, or any of those who matriculated before 1875 and who have probably dropped the course, there are more than 400 students actively proceeding to the degree of B.A.

These figures show that our University has been making wonderful strides within the past few years, a fact which is all the more gratifying when the increased severity of the curriculum, and the rivalry of the sectarian universities are taken into account.

An undergraduate who stood pretty well in the first class of his department in the first year talks of going to another university where he says he can come out head, while if he remains here he will have little chance for either of the medals among so many competitors. If his only object is a medal we advise him by all means to go where he can get the biggest one with the least effort. But if he has another end in view he certainly forgets two things: (1) That a second class honor man in one university may be able to teach a medalist of some other institution; (2) That there is very little difference of ability in the men who take first-class honors in this university, though perforce medals can be awarded to only two of them. We don't know of a case in which one man has been preferred to another simply because the first took a medal and the other only first-class honors in the same department—the great question is, has he an honor standing? As this young man probably looks at it from a pecuniary standpoint we may tell him that lately a second-class honor man of Toronto University got a high school at \$1000 over a medalist from the university to which our medal-hunter thinks of directing his steps, who offered to do the work for \$800.

NATURAL SCIENCE ASSOCIATION.

It has been felt for some time past by the undergraduates of the honor course in Natural Science that a society in the interest of that department, by means of which all might be brought together for the discussion of scientific subjects, and the reading of scientific papers, would greatly promote interest in their work. In such a society the men of the different years would be brought more inti-

mately together, and could thus render mutual assistance. At a general meeting held some time before the close of the Michaelmas term, a committee consisting of Messrs. Acheson, McGill, Rutan, Carveth, Langstaff, and Wood was appointed to consider the advisability of forming a society, and to bring in a report before the Christmas vacation. The following is the report of the committee as adopted at a general meeting:

SCHOOL OF PRACTICAL SCIENCE.

December 12th, 1879.

To the Natural Science Men of University College, Toronto.

GENTLEMEN—Your committee beg leave to report that in accordance with instructions received from you, they have deliberated concerning the advisability of forming an association in connection with University College for the promotion of the study of the Natural Sciences, and they have unanimously come to the conclusion that such an association is in every way desirable. It has long been felt that the scientific part of the University College Literary and Scientific Society is a dead letter, and even if scientific subjects were regarded in that society as of equal importance with literary ones, still it is thought that the attention could not be bestowed on them which their importance demands, and they could not be dealt with in such a manner as would be interesting and instructive to the society as a whole, and at the same time satisfactory to the Natural Science men. It has therefore been considered advisable to establish an association which shall occupy itself entirely with the subjects of the Natural Sciences, and so supplement the work done by the Literary Society. In this way an impetus will be given to the study of Natural Science in our college, personal investigation will be encouraged, mutual assistance will be given, and a medium will be furnished in a humble way through which individual thought may become the common property of all.

Some of the ways in which this might be accomplished are indicated in the following suggestions: Papers might be read embodying the results of original research. The field is wide enough to give every one an opportunity to do something in this respect. Empirical knowledge is not yet limited, and generalization is in many ways still crude. The researches of eminent men might be made known in lectures or papers, which, if left to every one to find out for himself, would be known only by a few who were fortunate enough to have access to the literature of the subject.

Critical readings might be given from scientific authors, and the leading scientific problems of the day might be discussed, and mutual assistance might be rendered by the members in the work prescribed in the university curriculum. If any one meets with a difficulty in the course of his reading or practical work, he might lay this before the members of the association, and invite discussion on it, or he might tell his difficulty to the general committee, who might appoint one of the members to get all the information he could on the subject, and make it known to the whole association. In this way much valuable time and labor would be saved the individual members, and they would gain a more general and thorough knowledge of their work.

By a judicious selection also of scientific periodicals and magazines much aid would be given, and reading would be furnished of a more interesting nature than text books. In view of these considerations, and as a means for the accomplishment of these ends, your committee beg leave to recommend:

1. That a Natural Science Association be formed in connection with University College.
2. That it be called 'The University College Natural Science Association.'
3. That it consist of graduates, and undergraduates in the honor course in Natural Science.

4. That the objects of this Association shall be the encouragement of original scientific investigation, and mutual assistance in the study of the Natural Sciences by discussions, lectures, papers, and critical readings from scientific authors, and by the supply of such periodicals, magazines, etc., as shall be deemed advisable.

5. That the officers shall constitute the general committee, and shall consist of a president, vice-president, secretary, treasurer, curator, and a representative from each year, eight in all.

6. That the election of officers shall take place yearly by ballot, at the annual meeting, except the representative of the second year, who shall be elected at the third regular meeting of the following session.

7. That the candidates for office shall be nominated at the meeting preceding the election.

8. That only graduates with honors in Natural Sciences shall be eligible for the office of president, and that the vice-president and secretary shall be chosen from those entering their fourth year, the treasurer and curator from those entering their third year, and the representatives, one from each year.

9. That the Association shall meet once every two weeks during the college session.

10. That the general committee shall have power to call a special meeting of the Association at any time by giving at least 24 hours notice.

All of which is respectfully submitted.

GEO. ACHESON,

Chairman of Committee.

After the adoption of this report the following were elected as officers of the Association for the current year:—President, W. H. Ellis, M.A., M.B.; vice-president, Geo. Acheson; secretary, A. McGill; treasurer, G. H. Carveth; curator, R. F. Rutan; fourth year representative, J. B. Tyrell; third year representative, T. McKenzie; second year representative, E. F. Langstaff.

The College Council has been notified of what has been done, and their sanction has been obtained. The president and professors of the College, and the faculty of the School of Practical Science have been asked to become patrons of the Association, and so far everything appears favorable. Through the kindness of the board of trustees of the School of Practical Science, a room has been secured in that building, in which to hold the meetings of the Association.

The general committee is engaged in forming a constitution and by-laws, which will be laid before the first meeting, and which, when adopted, will be printed, and may be obtained from the treasurer.

The evening of the week on which the meetings will be held has not yet been decided, but due notice of it will be given hereafter.

PHOTOGRAPHS, ETC.

39 and 41 KING STREET WEST, TORONTO.

Dominion Exhibition, Highest Honors, Bronze Medal for Plain Photography