

'Doctor' has a great attraction for many persons who are led by their surroundings to set a value on that University training, and its consequent degrees, of which they have for some reason been deprived. Consequently there have been found universities, so-called, which, setting little more than monetary value on their degrees, have been willing to furnish the desired appendage of letters to any name that would be honored on a cheque (or even note) of from five to sixty dollars. It may well be said that University men can well afford to despise such cheap decorations, and freely allow the use of them to those who will condescend to wear such finery, but it must be borne in mind that all University degrees are usually held to be the index of a varying amount of knowledge, and at the best, to be the stamp of a sound education, which in law and reason they were undoubtedly held to be. The consequence is that a large number of ignorant and incompetent men have the way opened to them of securing the same appearance of honour as the learned, and either succeed in deceiving the public as to their real advantages, or, by a helpless display of ignorance, cast a universal slur on University training and graduates. A much more serious effect, however, may be easily produced, when some of these merely nominal universities have the power of conferring the degree of M. D., and with it the licence to practice medicine, as is not infrequently the case, by all accounts, in the neighbouring republic. In this case, the conferring of such degrees and powers, in very many instances is little, if at all, short of criminal.

Fortunately we in Canada are not sufficiently free and progressive (†) as to raise such bogus universities as we speak of, to the discredit of our educational system. The leading universities of Canada are slow to confer degrees on any save the students they have instructed, and after a long course of tuition and severe examinations. Of our own University, at least it may be said, no one bears the primary degrees of any of her several faculties, who has not been trained and approved of by her many really eminent instructors. We sincerely hope this will always be the case, and that no expansion of the University system will lead to the decoration of men who, no matter what their abilities and private attainments may be, must of necessity lack a great deal of the thorough training implied by the possession of a degree from a University like our own.

#### UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS.

McGill has now an Athletic Association, Football, Cricket, Hockey, and two Lawn Tennis Clubs. Base-

ball and Lacrosse have been introduced, and last of all a Snow-Shoe Club is being talked of. The University gymnasium is largely patronized by *Arts* students. Mr. Naismith's popularity with the students is shown by the fact that there is often 75, and occasionally 100, on the floor during the hours of his instruction.

Last autumn, on several occasions, games of football, baseball, and lacrosse were being played on the campus *at the same time*, with considerable annoyance and danger to all concerned. The difficulties in this respect are increasing each year.

The arrangement of lectures in the Medical Faculty leaves no time for physical exercise. In Applied Science, lectures in the mornings and practical work in the afternoons leave no time for recreation, except the hour from 4 to 5, on Thursday afternoons of September and October, which the Faculty gave the students on condition that they came to lectures at one o'clock instead of two.

The necessity of physical exercise, in order to put the body in the best condition for obtaining the best quality and quantity of brain work, is universally acknowledged.

Students often "make time" to indulge in athletics by "sloping" from lectures.

Men who have a liking for athletics are very often those who appreciate the lectures most, and are anxious to attend. At present many men are unable to attend *all* the lectures prescribed for them, and take physical exercise. In our opinion they are justified in choosing an hour's fresh air and a game on the campus rather than a continuous series of lectures in close class-rooms followed by a dull, languid feeling and a craving for excitement or stimulants, which we are sorry to say is often gratified.

May not the reputation which Medical students, as a body, enjoy, be attributed to this cause?

Physical culture should receive attention from those in authority in all the Faculties. All give a theoretical assent to athletics "in moderation;" but at the same time many object to any *practical* recognition of athletics. What is required is that an hour each day be left for recreation.

Dr. Morgan states that Oxford University oarsmen were at about the average of their classes in point of scholarship, while Cambridge oarsmen held a better rank, and took more prizes than the average of their schoolmates.

Harvard statistics show that, while the average scholarship of the University is 74 per cent, of the athletic team 72 per cent, and of the crew 69 per cent, that of men taking no exercise is 67 per cent.