

# UNIVERSITY GAZETTE

Vol. IX.]

MCGILL COLLEGE, MONTREAL, FEBRUARY 17TH, 1886.

[No. 9.]

## McGill University Gazette

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The UNIVERSITY GAZETTE will be published fortnightly during the College Session.

Rejected communications will not be returned, to which rule no exception can be made. The name of the writer must always accompany a communication.

All communications may be addressed to the Editors, P. O. Box 1290.

### Editorials.

#### REPRESENTATIVE FELLOWS.

We publish in this number a communication from the Honorary Secretary of the Graduates' Society with regard to the nomination of Representative Fellows, showing the means to be adopted by those desirous of making use of that Society for this purpose. As will be seen, not much time remains for the reception of nominations, so that those who wish to have candidates nominated should at once set about the matter. But of course it is not absolutely necessary that a candidate should be nominated by the Graduates' Society. That is a convenient way of making known to the graduates generally what men are in the field, and of giving the voters an opportunity of examining into the merits of the candidates. Still the voters may vote for whom they please, provided the person be a graduate of three years' standing in the Faculty for which they wish him to sit. Every graduate of the University who has paid the registration fee of fifty cents can vote. We mention these particulars because there seems to be a very general indifference and ignorance with regard to these matters. The number of graduates who have been in the habit of making use of this right has been hitherto very small, and in fact the elections have not received that attention which their importance merited. The largest

number of voters ever polled, we believe, was about two hundred, and as a general rule the number is much smaller. When we consider that the voting is by proxy and that the registration fee is merely nominal, we cannot understand why such indifference should be displayed. We hope that at the approaching elections next month greater interest will be manifested.

At the present time it is very necessary that we should send good representatives to Corporation, and we ask the electors to carefully weigh the merits of whatever candidates may be brought forward. The subjects which are at present in agitation are of such vast importance that men of ability, discretion and stamina should be selected. If these qualities are found in any graduate, he should not, on the mere score of youth, be rejected. At all events be sure that those for whom you vote are prepared to support the three following proposals: Reform of the Law Faculty, the Raising of the Standard of Matriculation in the University and Larger Representation of the Graduates on the Governing Bodies of the University. Those who can contribute most to the carrying out of these objects are those whom we believe to be most worthy of your suffrages.

#### A CHANGE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION.

In the Medical Faculty this year the examination in Practical Chemistry has been conducted in a different manner to heretofore. Formerly the examination was mainly written, the practical examination consisting of less than ten minutes work in the laboratory, when the student had not time to recover from the excitement he labored under, till the bell rang and he was hurried out, to realize the fact that he had made some gross blunder in something which he knew perfectly well. Doubtless this process was easier for the examiner but it was palpably an injustice to the examined.

This year the examination was entirely practical, and the student instead of spending TEN MINUTES in the laboratory, worked there for TWO HOURS. Thus he was given an opportunity of establishing his knowledge—or otherwise—of the subject. This is a change in the right direction, and is a step forward in doing away with the pernicious system of cramming which is altogether too prevalent in our colleges.