

Science.

IN any school of mining the course in mineralogy is one of the essentials; it should be as complete and detailed as possible. Whether or not this can be said of our course in mineralogy at Queen's we leave to the reader to judge from the following brief description.

The course begins in the second year in mining and on presentation of his class ticket a set of mineral specimens numbering about one hundred and fifty is handed over to each student. Each set is contained in a cabinet of drawers, the drawers divided into compartments for each specimen, and a complete indexed list attached to each set. An individual collection of crystal models is also given to each student in this year. Our course here is unique in this respect, as far as can be ascertained there is no other school of mining in the world which attempts to supply individual student collections of this size. The course in the third year is a continuation of that in the second, members of this class each receiving a set of about two hundred specimens of greater variety than those received in the previous year. It would be rather difficult to sum up the reasons which make it possible to supply student collections in this way. It is due largely to the fact that we are so fortunately situated in a district well supplied with mineral bearing rocks. We all hear more or less of the "mineralogy excursions" which are held on Saturday mornings during the fall term; some of us have trudged back wearily from these trips bringing with us a bag full of specimens which we would consider worthless were it not for the exchange system which Professor Nicol has developed, through which specimens are received from all parts of the world in exchange for those mentioned. Since the opening up of the Cobalt district there has been an increasing demand for specimens of Ontario minerals, which has made it possible for Professor Nicol to gather for the School of Mining a collection of minerals second to none on the continent.

On the first floor of Ontario Hall is the University mineral collection and fourteen large cabinets illustrating some of the industrial uses of minerals showing their state in the process of manufacture from the raw material to finished product. Among the more interesting of these might be mentioned the cases containing Feldspar, Asbestos, Petroleum and Graphite.

To go into details with regard to the equipment at hand for the student of crystallography one must needs be a student of the subject, so the writer will leave the subject untouched, needless to say it is on a par with the equipment of the more practical side of the course.

Twenty years ago the lectures in mineralogy were held in a little room in Carruthers' Hall,—to-day, with the exception of chemistry, the Department of Mineralogy occupies more room than any other department in the University; surely we can reiterate the statement of the writer of this column two years ago, when he wrote, "the Mineralogy Department is one of which Queen's may well be proud."

The following were successful candidates at the recent Preliminary Examination for Dominion Land Surveyors:—N. B. MacRostie, W. S. Earle, John Moyer, A. A. MacLaren, J. H. Johnston, J. A. T. Robertson, L. A. Kendall, C. Pierce.