

a certain extent the standard of the several teaching and examining bodies, on such broad general principles as those of the Medical Council of Great Britain. Canada will fail to attain one of the most important advantages of union until this reform is effected.

The establishment of a General University is, however, a very different thing, and one involving very serious considerations. The examinations of a General Examining Board must either be fixed at the level attained by the weaker colleges, or these must by legislative provision be raised to the standard of the stronger, or they must be crushed altogether. Any of these alternatives, or any attempt to adopt an intermediate course, must be fraught with danger to education, and would probably lead to bitter and troublesome controversies. Another difficulty would result from the attempt to subject to identical examinations the students of Catholic and Protestant colleges, and of those whose course of study is narrow and uniform, and those which cultivate options and honour studies or have a wider general course. Either grave injustice must be done, or there could be no uniform standard for degrees. Again, in a national university every examination would require to be based on some established text-book or set of text-books. Thus all teachers and their pupils would be thrown on a sort of procrustean bed, where the longer would certainly be cut short even if the shorter were not lengthened. In other words the progressive and original teachers in any subject would be discouraged, while the man of routine would carry the day. Hence such general examining boards are especially obnoxious to advanced educationists and to the advocates of scientific education. Another evil of a general system of this kind is that it tends to take the examinations out of the hands of the actual teachers and to give them to outside examiners, in my judgment a fatal mistake in any University system. As these evils are by no means so generally appreciated as they should be, I venture to quote here two opinions, respecting them from English sources. One is from the report of the Royal Commissioners on the Scottish Universities, the other from a well-known scientific journal. The Commissioners say :—

“ The examination of the students of a University for their degrees by the Professors who have taught them, is sometimes spoken of as an obvious mistake, if not abuse; but those who are practically acquainted with