

CORRESPONDENCE.

THE LECTURE ROOM OF M. G. HOSPITAL.

To the Editors McGill Gazette.

DEAR SIRS,—It is a well-known fact that owing to the present condition of the M.G. Hospital, part of the clinical portion of our studies is conducted under very great disadvantages. There is no student who has ever entered this department of our hospital for the first time, or anyone else whose mind is not impervious to reason and justice, but will be astonished with the appearance of a room which is but ill fitted indeed for the purposes for which it is intended. As for its accommodations as an operating-room, I will leave that entirely to the discretion of those who make use of it for that purpose; but, as a lecture-room, I must say that it is sadly deficient in a great many respects; therefore I think that a few words on the subject (now especially, since repairs are going on so extensively throughout the buildings) would not be amiss, and, moreover, might possibly call the attention of the directors to the state of affairs which at present exist in the lecture-room.

That its seats are old and feeble is obvious from many reasons, as we can trace back several generations by the names and monograms of those who occupied them year after year, which, judging from the depth of the incisions, would seem to indicate that those seats were intended to remain untouched for ever, and it is a strange fact that this habit, *caveas scribendi*, seems to have been inherited by every son of McGill to a greater or less degree. If those supports on which we are obliged to write were intended for writing-desks, the manner of writing in those days must have changed wonderfully, for of late years the student has found it necessary to invent various contrivances for the purpose of securing a comfortable position in writing, and consequently is obliged to resort to whatever method his ingenuity will devise. A very common practice is by making use of a board, which is laid across between two seats, and by the aid of this modern invention, those who are fortunate enough to possess one are enabled to write with a little more ease than they otherwise would, and it is astonishing to see what measures will be resorted to in procuring those indispensable articles. Indeed, one gallant Sophomore was known to carry a board, or rather a two-inch plank, all the way from his residence to the hospital. This is but one of the many instances in which may be seen the carrying into effect of that well-known maxim, "Necessity is the mother of invention."

Why, then, should such a state of things exist? It might be answered that the hospital is a charitable institution, and that its present financial circumstances will not permit of any further outlay. This may be all quite true, but such an answer will not suffice for students who come from distant parts, and many of them with but limited means, and also many who leave other universities to prosecute their studies under the more glorious auspices of our *Alma Mater*. Or is it because clinical medicine is of less importance than any of the other branches? It certainly would not seem so, for as far as the fees are concerned it seems quite the reverse; when we consider that each lecture costs fifty cents, then we must remember that it is a matter of no little importance. However, I do not mean to enlarge upon the importance of clinics, as it is too well known to all, as also the ability of the professor under whose direction they are so ably conducted; but I must

say that he cannot fail to see the difficulties under which the students are labouring, and the result is that some are obliged to write on their knees, some on the floor, some on the stairs, and a great many make themselves conspicuous by not writing at all, while another portion of the class forms an outside audience, and may be seen creeping up the stairs one by one to answer the roll-call.

In making these few remarks, I feel satisfied that I speak the sentiments of the class in general, and if they should possibly reach the ears of the directors and be viewed in the right light, which I have no doubt they will, then they will have fully accomplished the desire of

THE WRITER.

To the Editors of McGill Gazette:—

GENTLEMEN,—Although the athletic sports of the University for this session have passed off very successfully, yet the "phalanx of fault-finders" has not been completely disarmed, as is shown by the remarks of "Undergraduate" in your extra of the 15th ult.; and besides the matter there spoken of, I may be permitted to speak of another, in reference to which the Committee of Management, to say the very least, appear to have acted in a short-sighted manner. I refer to the regulations, which was to the effect that none but *undergraduates* of McGill, or some other recognised University, could compete in these sports. I think if they had been open to *all* students of McGill, the interest taken in them would in no way be diminished, but, on the contrary, would be greatly increased. This regulation seems unjust; first, when we remember the number of colleges affiliated with McGill, the students of which are expected to contribute to the maintenance of the sports, solely as a University affair; and again, when we know that, thereby many a student deterred, by reason of the inevitable "pluck" in mathematics or classics, from being a regular undergraduate is debarred from these sports. Surely if undergraduates of other Universities are allowed to compete in these, partial students of McGill are entitled to be allowed to do so likewise. One thing that made the games of Ancient Greece and Rome (an account of which has come down to us) so famous, was the number of competitors in them; and it is reasonable to say, greater interest would attach to our University games if there were more competitors in the various events.

Great as was the honour won by the successful men in the different contests, would not this be greater if partial students and students of affiliated colleges had not been debarred?

I would be sorry to think the members of the Committee were afraid our undergraduates would be worsted by students who are not full undergraduates; and yet, what else could an observer think when last year such students were among the competitors, and carried off no small share of the prizes, whilst this year they were entirely excluded? McGill undergraduates are able to successfully compete with these students in anything where brain-power is required; and surely, in the domain of muscle, they are not less powerful. With these facts before us, it is to be hoped the University sports will hereafter, in part at least, be open to all students in any way connected with the University, then greater will be the interest taken in them, and more valuable will be the honour won.

OMNIBUS.